Territorians are being encouraged to have their say on the Northern Territory Government’s draft Strong Society, Confident Culture Strategy which will provide a framework to build on the cultural and social strengths that connect Territorians.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said a strong society meant a full participative society where all individuals had access to the same opportunities and resources to be able to make a contribution to the community.

“It is incumbent on Government to assist those that are less capable, so that they may develop their capacity to engage within the economy and society in a way that empowers them as an individual,” he said.

“This Government is clear that we need to do what is necessary, to think differently, and to make the most of our position (our location, our human and capital resources) in a way that benefits Territorians and makes our lifestyle the envy of the nation.

“The Strategy we are releasing today will build on our strengths to create a connected community which is welcoming, vibrant, active and confident.

“Connected communities provide a network of support, generating opportunities to participate, volunteer, get help when needed and have a real say on issues that matter.

“A connected community is also a resilient community and has the ability to withstand, recover from, and respond positively to crisis or adversity.”

Mr Giles said the draft Strong Society, Confident Culture Strategy proposes nine high level priority areas that the Government will focus on to achieve the goals of a strong society with a confident culture in the Northern Territory.

The priority areas for action are: Community, Diversity, Children and Families, Housing, Economic Security, Education, Health, Community Safety and Lifestyle.

“The strategy allows the Northern Territory Government to be courageous in reporting and evaluating where we are succeeding and where we are not, and to take action as a result,” Mr Giles said.
The draft *Strong Society, Confident Culture Strategy* has also been welcomed by Bernard Dwyer, President of the Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS), as a social participation framework that aims to deliver improvements in key areas across communities and populations, remote and urban.

“It is important to consider the social determinants in all policies and NTCOSS members have a keen interest in these areas of community wellbeing. We encourage individuals and organisations to examine the framework and provide comment on where it might be strengthened and bettered. Key future social fabric can be determined by what we plan and do now. Make sure you have your say,” Mr Dwyer added.

All Territorians have the opportunity to download the draft strategy and provide their comments until 30 September 2015 at [www.haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/socialparticipation](http://www.haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/socialparticipation)

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