



NTCOSS 2016 election asks

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

ALP
CLP
GREENS
Delia Lawrie
Robyn Lambley

By policy area:

Child Protection
Cost of Living
Justice
Alcohol

Child Protection

Out of Home care services (including foster and kinship care) to be outsourced to the NGO sector over a 7 year transitional period.

Establishment of an Aboriginal-controlled OoHC sector.

ALP	Labor supports this request. There are a range of reforms required in child protection to: improve the delivery of frontline child protection services in response to the significant increase in notifications; establish a dual pathways referral system to the NGO sector for at risk families who have come to the attention of the child protection system; improve the care of children in out of home care sector to make sure they are receiving the right care and that their health, emotional and educational needs are being met; and, support children transitioning from care to independence. Labor has already outlined in our 'Respect, Partnerships and Opportunity' policy that we will grow and develop Indigenous non-government organisations to provide out of home care and child protection services.
CLP	1. Supported. A re-elected Country Liberals Government will work with the Sector to transition Out of Home Care Services (including foster and kinship care) from government to the NGO sector. 2. Supported.
GREENS	NT Greens support transitioning Out of Home care services to the NGO sector. Greens policy supports building the capacity of Aboriginal community controlled agencies to provide support for Aboriginal families and young people and identifying ways to improve participation of Aboriginal children and young people in decision making where appropriate. We want to see the growth of aboriginal-controlled family and kinship services, focused on strengthening young families and providing support to keep children in their cultural and kinship networks. This includes providing Aboriginal family support workers for early intervention for families at risk of entering the Out of Home care system, ensuring vulnerable families receive the support they need. Where foster care is needed, it should include opportunities for short term family care or kinship care. The Greens also advocate for cultural-care plans that recognise cultural strengths and acknowledging that efforts to support and maintain cultural connections are especially vital to children's ongoing wellbeing and safety.
Delia Lawrie	Supported.
Robyn Lambley	I support any strategy or service model that has the proven potential or evidence base to improve the lives of children stuck in the cycle of poverty and abuse. Fully outsourcing OoHC to Aboriginal NGO providers is potentially a very good idea. The escalating demand and cost for OoHC services and the difficulty finding suitable kinship carers are undoubtedly the greatest challenges in NT Child Protection over the past 10 years or more. Using an Aboriginal service provider model to help resolve these problems was a key recommendation (Rec. 60) from the 2010 Growing Them Strong Together Inquiry into Child Protection in the NT. If an Aboriginal controlled OoHC NGO sector can do it better, more efficiently and to the benefit of Aboriginal children in care, then I would support this reform.

Cost of Living

Review eligibility criteria for access to NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme (NTPCCS) to ensure those who are most disadvantaged are able to access the scheme. This would include all those on Newstart and Youth Allowance.

ALP

Labor will provide the 3000 seniors who have lost their travel concessions a \$700 debit card every two years for use on travel and on government services such as power and water to help reduce their cost of living. We will also review all the seniors concessions and the Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme with a view to looking at what the needs of seniors and pensioners are and what is the best system to support these needs.

CLP

1. Supported. The Department of Health has commenced a review of the NT Pensioner & Carer Concession Scheme and subject to the outcomes of the review there may be future changes to the scheme. As in further measure, and as part of our Senior Territorians Plan a re-elected Country Liberals Government will:-

- Improve the current NTPCCS to allow eligible Senior Territorians to also use their travel entitlement to travel intrastate and provide for the non-accruing entitlement for the travel subsidy to fall due on a fixed anniversary date of 1 September;
- Provide \$500 every two years towards the cost of local, intrastate, interstate or overseas travel(including taxis) for Senior Territorians who are currently not entitled to any concessions and provide for the non-accruing entitlement for the travel subsidy to fall due on a fixed anniversary date of 1st September;
- Establish a \$360,000 per annum Sports & Lifestyle Scheme to enable Senior Territorians to receive up to \$200 for their sport, recreation and lifestyle expenses;
- Establish a \$300,000 per annum Personal Alert System Rebate Scheme to enable Senior Territorians to receive up to \$380 towards the purchase of an approved personal alert system for health reasons or as a personal safety measure under the Country Liberals Law and Order Plan.

2. Not supported. A re-elected Country Liberals Government however has committed to funding for young people through the Knowledge Territory program. Knowledge Territory is intended to provide funding for young people to assist with their expenses while undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships or study (either VET or Higher Education). Further information can be obtained from the Country Liberals Education Employment and Training Plan or from the Department of Business

GREENS

We do not have relevant specific policy. The Greens are committed to reducing inequality and support policies that help reduce disadvantage

Delia Lawrie	Supports including those on Newstart in the NTPCCS. Would like to see more information/data on those on youth allowance before making a decision.
Robyn Lambley	It is my understanding that the NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme already targets the most disadvantaged people in the NT. Controversial changes were made to this scheme several years ago that essentially introduced an income and means test. I do not support providing these entitlements afforded to our pensioners and carers to people on unemployment benefits. A better initiative for people who are unemployed is to give them a real job and a real future. I support greater education and vocational training opportunities for young people and those struggling to get into the workforce

Justice

Development of an Aboriginal Justice Agreement that sets out how government and Aboriginal people will work together to make justice work in the Northern Territory. The Agreement will be the result of a process that is based on, and builds, trust and engagement and will lead to practical solutions that meet the needs of our community.

ALP	Labor supports working with our community to establish an Aboriginal Justice Agreement specific for the Northern Territory. Labor supports initiatives that reduce incarceration rates by addressing any underlying issues contributing to an individual committing a crime. We support the establishment of specialist courts and diversion pathways to treat a person's underlying issues such as alcohol abuse or mental illness. This has been outlined in our ' <i>Strengthening Mental Health</i> ' policy and our position of reinstating the Banned Drinker's Register includes a specialist court for diversion to rehabilitation for suitable individuals. We support the establishment of targets to reduce crime, incarceration and recidivism.
CLP	A re-elected Country Liberals Government will await the outcomes of the newly announced Royal Commission into Youth Detention and Child Protection; so as not to pre-empt or exclude anything that might be recommended by the Royal Commission.
GREENS	NT Greens want immediate restoration of funding to legal services and diversion programs, and the addition of targeted funding to enable these stakeholders to fully contribute to the coming Royal Commission. Beyond that immediate response, the AJA model employed by other states does appear to offer a new way forward. The Greens recognise that community participation is essential in developing a new framework of strategies for reducing indigenous incarceration. We support long-term funding for a wide range of practical, community led solutions, including those that build on cultural strengths and connections with country.
Delia Lawrie	Supported.
Robyn Lambley	If this idea has the widespread support of NT Aboriginal people then it should be explored by Government.

Alcohol

Independent review of past and current alcohol initiatives to inform a comprehensive, evidence based, long-term Alcohol Plan for the Northern Territory.

ALP

Labor supports an evidence based approach to policy and program development. We will bring back the BDR and retain the TBLs with the police being provided with the decision making on when and where to hold them. We will cease the alcohol mandatory treatment program. The NT Coroner recently recommended an independent expert inquiry into alcohol misuse take place and that this plan should form the basis of working with the community, including Aboriginal people and organisations, to find solutions. Labor supports this recommendation for the development of improved initiatives to reduce alcohol related harm for individuals and our community.

CLP

The Country Liberals Government have an alcohol policy for the Northern Territory that is based upon the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act, the Alcohol Protection Orders Act, the Liquor Act and other pieces of complementary legislation and programs. Rather than a whole of Territory plan, this Government works with communities at a local level to develop Alcohol Management Plans to tackle the harm caused by alcohol abuse in a way that works for the community. They have a strong focus on reducing alcohol related harm and improving community safety, particularly for women and children. Local alcohol reference groups agree on the strategies and sign off on the alcohol management plan at the local level. The groups comprise community members, government representatives, alcohol and other drugs services representatives, businesses and licensees. Currently are alcohol reference groups in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and East Arnhem.

GREENS

NT Greens have a well-developed view of current and past alcohol initiatives. We seek to replace the current discriminatory measures with measures which will minimize the harmful effects of alcohol throughout the entire community. We call for the re-introduction of the banned drinkers register as a cost effective and non-discriminatory strategy, and a refocus of funding from mandatory to voluntary rehabilitation. We also want a minimum floor price and restrictions on trading hours. NT Greens are committed to see that data is gathered, analysed and made public so that the effects of alcohol policy can be assessed and debated by the community.

Delia Lawrie

Supports bringing back the Enough is Enough plan which included the BDR, AOD tribunal, referrals to treatment services, funding for treatment services, introducing models of support in remote and rural regions including the implementation of integrated treatment models with health service delivery agencies including AMSANT, including evaluation.

Robyn Lambley

One size does not fit all when it comes to alcohol initiatives and strategies in the NT. I think alcohol strategies need to be developed by local communities, unique to the people and circumstances in those communities. These community plans should be evidence based and developed in consultation with the whole community. There could be some principles that the whole of the NT might agree on to form a “long term, alcohol plan for the NT”, but I doubt that would provide much substance or local relevance. What may work in Alice Springs, may not work in Darwin or Nhulunbuy. An Independent review of past and current alcohol initiatives would obviously be a valuable source of information for the future.
