



**COVID-19 Sector Update 20 April
Children, Youth and Families**

Hi everyone,

We have received a great deal of information, resources, updates and guidance regarding children, young people and families in relation to COVID-19, so we have made today's COVID-19 Sector Update a dedicated children, young people and families edition.

Please read on for updates to NT service delivery, resources for children and young people, simple explanation and factsheets and much more dedicated content.

We will be releasing our regular weekly eBulletin on Thursday afternoon as usual, if you have any questions or need to reach out for any reason, please contact admin@ntcoss.org.au.

Deborah Di Natale
NTCOSS CEO

[Click Here for more COVID-19 Advice and Resources](#)

Territory Families overview of service delivery in response to COVID-19

Territory Families has released a [briefing to NGOs](#) with an updated overview of its Care and Protection responsibilities and related service delivery in response to COVID-19 restrictions. It states that its services to support children and families are considered essential, however it has been necessary to adjust some programs and delivery models to ensure compliance with the range of health directions that have been issued to keep the community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Essential travel to remote communities by Territory Families frontline

employees is still permitted and is essential where there is any risk of safety of a child or children. **See attached briefing** for process to determine what is essential travel/response by Territory Families, and for responses to frequently asked questions including on Access Arrangements; Care Plans/Placement Arrangements; Reunification; Court; Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Teams (YORET); Night Outreach and Detention Operations.

COVID-19 and out-of-home care

For the approximately 1080 children in out-of-home care in the NT, restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will mean a change to contact with the birth family. The University of Sydney has partnered with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and NGOs to co-design practices around contact, including tips for [family time using video chats](#) and [family time from a distance](#), without technology.

PRIORITY ACCESS: NDIS participants to have priority access to home delivery grocery services.

From **6 April**, NDIS participants have priority access to home delivery grocery services. This means as an NDIS participant or carers of children with disability can purchase food and other grocery items online to be delivered safely to your home. All NDIS participants should have received a unique home delivery access code to get priority access to supermarket home delivery services. Visit the NDIS [website](#) for more information

LEARNING FROM HOME: NT Learning Together resource page

The official information from the NT Department of Education for parents and carers is that from **20 April**, all NT students are expected to physically attend school. Students who are unwell must remain at home. Where families elect not to send their child to school, the child must be learning from home. Visit the Department of Education's [website](#) for more information, including information for NT Government operated residential boarding facilities For children learning from home, parents and carers can access a range of resources on the NT Learning together [webpage](#). Where a child is learning from home due to vulnerabilities to COVID-19 or direction by a health professional to self-isolate or quarantine, schools will provide learning (online or printed) to support the continuation of learning from home. for more general information for parents and carers of NT school students, [click here](#).

COUNSELLING SERVICE: Catholic Care NT Youth and Mental Health Service (YaMHS).

YaMHS is a youth enhanced mental health service, funded through the Northern Territory Primary Health Network (PHN) under the Strengthening Mental Health in Australia policy. The service is funded to work with young people aged between 12 to 25 years. Please [click here](#) to read further about who is encouraged to access this service, and what the service provides. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all sessions are via phone or video calls.

COUNSELLING SERVICE: Parentline Hotline, Email and WebChat

[Parentline](#) is open 8am-10pm, 7 days a week. Parentline can be a safety-net for families by providing support when it's most needed including after hours, weekends, where families may feel isolated and local services are unavailable. Parentline offers free confidential phone and [WebChat](#) counselling and support for parents and carers of children in Queensland and the Northern Territory. For the Hotline, dial 1300 30 1300 or visit parentline.com.au.

COUNSELLING SERVICE: Relationships Australia NT - support for individuals, couples, children and families

Relationships Australia NT offers mediation, counselling, EAP and other support services for the community. To find out more information, visit the Relationships Australian NT at <https://nt.relationships.org.au/> or call 8923 4999 (Darwin, Katherine), 8950 4100 (Alice Springs).

RESOURCE: Australian Childhood Foundation Booklets and Infographics

The Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) has produced a range of booklets and infographics to help children and young people understand the impacts of Coronavirus on their everyday life, in addition to ways for young people to maintain their mental health at this time. The ACF will continue to develop more resources, so watch this space or visit the [website](#).

Click [here to download](#) a poster about staying connected with children during coronavirus

Click [here to download](#) a picture-book style booklet helping kids understand coronavirus.

Click [here to download](#) an infographic developed to help young people reframe unhelpful thoughts.

Click [here to download](#) an infographic designed to help young people develop tools for maintaining their mental health.

RESOURCE: Supporting Families in Remote Communities as Youth Workers

Visit CAYLUS' [website](#) to read 'Supporting families in remote communities to respond to COVID-19'. This publication shares some ideas about COVID-19 prevention actions that youth workers could support under recent restrictions introduced in the NT.

RESOURCE: Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT

The [Foster and Kinship Carers Association](#) has compiled several resources to help their members navigate this time:

Click [here](#) for tips about talking to kids about coronavirus.

Click [here](#) for a kid-friendly poster about coronavirus.

Click [here](#) for a list of FAQs compiled by the Association, specific to foster and kinship carers.

RESOURCE: Launch Darwin - Do Try This @ Home

Launch Darwin has compiled a list of [resources and online content](#) for kids and young people stuck at home and missing out on regular social and creative activities.

RESOURCE: headspace Factsheet for COVID-19

headspace have released a [factsheet](#) for young people who may be experiencing stress related to COVID-19. Please feel free to circulate through your networks to those working with young people.

RESOURCE: Early learning educators

Beyond Blue and Early Childhood Australia have developed a two-page resource recognising that educators looking after young children are playing an important role during the COVID-19 outbreak. Young children are affected by how the adults around them feel and respond, and for this reason Beyond Blue has developed this resource for early learning educators to help them look after children's and their own mental health during these uncertain times. Visit Beyond Blue's [Be You website](#) for more information

RESOURCE: Hoops 4 Health Skillz and Drillz

Know young people who are missing their basketball? This Skillz and Drillz video from Timmy Duggan is a great resource for young people to use during the COVID 19. The video is uploaded on [Hoops Aboriginal Corp \(Facebook Page\)](#) as well as [Youtube](#)

COMPETITION: Secret Art

An opportunity for creatives aged 12-25 to exhibit visual art works at Radio Gnome Records as part of the Darwin Fringe Festival. Applications close midnight **Sunday 7 June**. Art work due **Sunday 21 June**. All mediums are accepted (2D, 3D, digital work, film), the work just needs to be able to hang on a wall or sit on a surface. Feel free to reach out to Roxanne (Secret Art Producer) with any questions or concerns that you may have via radio.gnome369@gmail.com. For more information or to submit an application, [click here](#).

COMPETITION: Create a music video targeting COVID-19 safety

A challenge has been issued to NT schools to produce their best rap or music video targeting COVID-19 safety. It follows a recent collaboration between NT schools and Yolngu rapper, Baker Boy. Visit the Department of Education's [website](#) for more information

COMPETITION: Portrait of a Teenage Territorian

The NCCA invites teenagers from around the Northern Territory to submit photographic portraits of themselves or their friends, for inclusion in [Portrait of a Teenage Territorian](#), in July 2020 at the NCCA gallery in Parap. The aim of Portrait of a Teenage Territorian is to show teenagers as they see themselves, on their own terms. They are looking for portraits that show artistic flair and creativity, and go beyond selfies and headshots to explore the character,

times and places of teens in the NT today. Photographs that have been photoshopped or otherwise digitally manipulated are welcome. Any interested teenagers are encouraged to get in touch via portrait@nccart.com.au. Submissions close **12 June**.

Updated Delivery of Services for Children, Youth and Family Related Organisations

If you would like to have you updated delivery of services in the next NTCOSS Sector Update (released Mondays) or eBulletin (released Thursdays), please email your updated details to admin@ntcoss.org.au

NT WIDE: Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT

Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT continue to operate during the COVID-19 Coronavirus. The wellbeing of all our foster and kinship carers and my team is our highest priority, therefore, a decision has been made to cancel all face to face training and events **until further notice**. Due to these restrictions we will negotiate with our online training partners to secure additional positions on online courses to continue to support the professional development of our carers. Our Carer Support Officers, Izzy and Martin are available for further information. Other restrictions now require the team to work remotely from our office however, we all continue to be available to assist carers with ongoing support, training and advocacy needs. It is “business as per our new usual” so contact the team on 1300 030 928 or via email info@fkca.org.au.

NT WIDE: headspace

The team at headspace are now working remotely and have postponed face to face meetings or engagements, switching to meeting with stakeholders over the phone or online where practical. To contact headspace about program changes in response to COVID-19, please [click here](#).

TOP END: YWCA Parenting Support Program

YWCA has cancelled Group Sessions (both Palmerston and Wulagi) for the Parenting Support Program for the near future. YWCA has also cancelled face to face meetings and transporting clients due to the social distancing required during this unprecedented time. The program will still be conducting case management and support via telephone and other digital mediums (TBA).

Contact the program for more details on 08 8936 0520.

ALICE SPRINGS: The Gap Youth Centre

Gap Youth & Community Centre will have no on-site youth programs. Instead, they will be providing 60 meals per day – 30 for families to collect, 30 to be delivered. They are also

developing youth engagement options online through social media.
For details, please contact leon.tripp@nt.gov.au

ALICE SPRINGS: Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services (ASYASS)

ASYASS has closed properties to outside services unless prior arrangement is made with the CEO. ASYASS are currently still open for referrals but will be taking recent travel and current health into consideration. ASYASS requests that all business be conducted by [email](#) or by calling (08) 8953 4200

ALICE SPRINGS: Brown Street Youth Drop In Centre

Tangentyere's Brown Street youth drop-in centre will remain open seven days a week but has been repurposed to provide meals to be collected and delivered to town camps. They are engaging in one-on-one mentoring and case management of young people. Call (08) 8951 4216 for more details, or visit the [Tangentyere website](#).

KATHERINE: Kalano Community Association - KYOTS

Katherine Youth Outreach and Transport Service (KYOTS), run by Kalano Community Association will continue to operate Wednesday to Sunday. Call 0429 061 959 or email kyots@kalano.org.au for more details.

Past eBulletins and COVID-19 Sector Updates

Access past eBulletins here:

[NTCOSS eBulletin 16 April 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 14 April 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 9 April 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update - Worker Well-being Edition 6 April 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 2 April 2020](#)

NTCOSS is a not for profit, member based, peak body for the social and community services sector in the Northern Territory. We're an advocate for social justice on behalf of people and communities in the NT, who may be affected by poverty and disadvantage.

NTCOSS acknowledges that we work on the land of the First Peoples of the Northern Territory and respect their continuing cultural connections as traditional owners of this country.

Don't forget to check out the NTCOSS website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Submit an item to eBulletin

To contribute notices to our Sector Update, please email your information in the body of an email or as a Word document to admin@ntcoss.org.au

Please ensure your contribution is in line with [NTCOSS guidelines](#) and includes all appropriate dates, times, links and contact details.

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