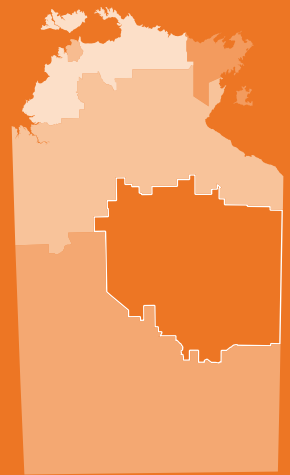


# STORY OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

BARKLY 2021



## Acknowledgements

In the spirit of respect, the authors acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country and recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to elders past and present.

We wish to thank the many individuals who have contributed to the development of the featured stories. We also thank the data custodians who have assisted with preparation and release of the datasets, John Glover and Sarah McDonald at the Population Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) at Torrens University and Fiona Shalley at the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University who prepared some of the data tables.

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The data platform is available at [cmc.nt.gov.au](http://cmc.nt.gov.au).

## Disclaimer

This Story is for information purposes only. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate, the Northern Territory Government and Menzies School of Health Research will not accept any liability for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any person acting in reliance upon the information.

Cover photos: The cover celebrates the rich cultural make-up of the children and young people of Barkly.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.





# Introduction

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**The Story of Our Children and Young People (the Story) addresses the demand for information about the wellbeing of children and young people. This Barkly Story is an abridged version of the Northern Territory 2021 edition. It is a resource for people working for and with children and young people in Barkly. It provides an evidence-base to support actions to improve outcomes.**

This 2021 Story builds on the 2019 edition with updated data for many of the measures, the addition of sub-regional data and data by Aboriginal status. A number of measures have been added to address the identified data gaps from 2019. Updates are also provided for many of the case studies presented in the 2019 Story.

There have been changes to the policy environment since the 2019 Story including revision of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the development of a Northern Territory Social Outcomes Framework. There has also been the disruption created by the COVID-19 pandemic including its implications to service delivery. The data measures and case studies in this Story have been considered in the context of this changing policy environment, with links to Closing the Gap and the Social Outcomes Framework highlighted alongside data measures using these icons:  

Much of the available data is service-based and commonly reports deficits rather than positive outcomes. The Editorial Committee investigated strength-based measures in the development of the Story and there will be continued effort in the preparation of the 2023 Story. A number of case studies highlight the positive work happening throughout the region.

## DATA PLATFORM

The most significant addition to the Story is an interactive data platform to complement the data available in this Story. It allows users to explore measures in comparison with Australia, Northern Territory and its other regions. Trend data for select measures is also included to consider changes over time. Use the platform at [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children). Measures for which trend data is available on the platform have this icon: 

The data presented in this Barkly Story is drawn from the data platform and may vary slightly from the data presented in the Northern Territory 2021 edition of the Story. Technical commentary on the data is detailed on page 29 and also in Appendix I on page 128 of the Northern Territory 2021 edition.

## CHANGE FROM 2019 TO 2021

When comparing data from this 2021 Story with the 2019 Story for the region as a whole, a number of indicators suggest change. For example, the proportion of women who reported smoking during pregnancy has decreased, school attendance in Transition has decreased and the number of notifications of child abuse or neglect has increased. For young people, the number of apprehensions of males has decreased and the proportion of young people enrolled to vote has decreased. Caution is required when making comparison using only two data points and over a short period. Trend data using multiple data points provides a more reliable assessment of change.

## THE NEST FRAMEWORK

The Story is underpinned by the national research of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) and the Nest outcomes framework. Through ARACY's research it was determined that for children and young people to thrive, they need to be valued, loved and safe; have material basics; be healthy; learning; participating and have a positive sense of identity and culture.

## HOW TO USE THIS STORY

You can use this Story in many ways, including:

- For community planning and local conversations
- As a tool to better understand indicators of wellbeing
- In service and organisational planning
- To support understanding of an outcomes-based approach
- As a reference when developing communication tools for community members and/or children and young people
- For the induction and training of staff
- To track progress against key indicators of wellbeing
- In the writing of grant applications
- When advocating for children and young people

Tell us how you are using the Story by visiting [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).

## ABORIGINAL FRAMEWORK

While the Story is underpinned by the national research of ARACY, it acknowledges the ancient authority and traditions of Aboriginal people by using a local framework, developed in 2019, which applies cultural metaphors. The Aboriginal Framework was updated in 2021 with blue dots around the upper half of the framework to depict the waters of the northern parts of the Territory, with the ochre dots around the lower half of the framework depicting the deserts of the southern regions.



Aboriginal Framework. Source: Developed by a cultural reference group of the Editorial Committee and modified through conversations with Aboriginal people from across the Northern Territory. Painted by Cian McCue.

- a** Child or young person in the centre, with their family
- b** Children and young people form the inner circle
- c** They are surrounded by a second circle of parents, uncles, aunts and those within the family across that generation. This circle also includes local service providers such as schools and clinics, and other people working with families
- d** The third circle represents grandparents, elders and those within the family across that generation. It also includes cultural authority groups, government, policy makers and decision makers
- e** Around the circles of people, are four groups of people talking and working together
- f** Everything is connected by travel lines which illustrate movement and flow, as everything co-exists. The movement is in all directions as people have responsibilities to each other. Through the kinship system, everything and everyone is connected including to the sun, moon, stars and universe. It is important for everyone to be working together and communicating with each other
- g** The dots around the outside hold the framework together, demonstrating a wholeness. The dots also allow for movement in and out of the framework.

# METAPHORS AND THE NEST DOMAINS

The metaphors used for the Aboriginal Framework were selected to be readily interpreted using the six domains of the Nest. These six areas of wellbeing for children and young people are the pillars around which this Story is written.

The stories of the children and young people from Barkly are told through these six domains.

**Being valued, loved and safe – Coolamon** – The coolamon is a large bowl-like carrier made from the wood of a tree. It is a traditional cot and keeps babies safe, strong and healthy.

**Having material basics – Tree** – Trees can provide essential items such as wood and bark for housing, tools for hunting and a source of bush food and medicine.

**Being healthy – Hunting and gathering** – Connection to land and culture through hunting and gathering ensures a healthy lifestyle – physically, developmentally and mentally. Plants and animals provide important food sources to maintain a healthy diet.

**Learning – Oral tradition** – There is a strong oral tradition in Aboriginal culture, as well as other cultures present in the Territory. Elders and grandparents sit with children and young people to pass on knowledge

**Participating – Spear, boomerang and dilly bag** – Spears, boomerangs and dilly bags represent active participation in Aboriginal community life - hunting and fishing gathering seeds and fruit as well as leisure, music and dance.

**Positive sense of identity and culture – Kinship system** – Everything in Aboriginal life is connected to and given its place in the kinship system. It is about the whole universe, the planets, stars, moon and sun – everything is connected.

Whilst we are separating elements of wellbeing, in life they are intrinsically linked and so there is crossover between domains. We have attributed indicators to the domains in which they are most commonly reported.

# CONTENTS

In this Story, you will find:

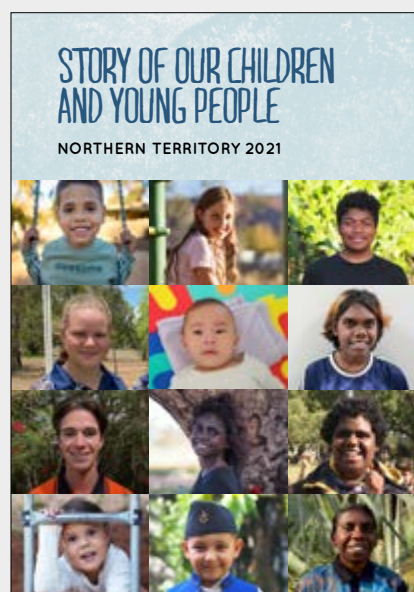
1. Information for Barkly including Tennant Creek and the balance of the region
2. Population information about families, education, employment, language and culture
3. Data for measures of child and youth wellbeing across the six domains outlined above
4. Case studies demonstrating positive change
5. Cultural stories of wellness
6. Links to the data platform containing further information

While the data highlight many stories, the Story uses a simple and direct approach in the presentation of measures. The Story deliberately refrains from providing interpretation or opinion. Definition of measures are included in the Northern Territory 2021 edition of the Story.

# GLOSSARY

Aboriginal	Aboriginal people, including Torres Strait Islanders and also to mean First Nations peoples
Child/children	Usually aged 0-9, statistically and legally aged 0-17
Children and young people	Children and young people, aged 0-24
Community	Inclusive of all forms of community: local community, schools, sporting clubs, arts and music clubs, faith communities and others
Domain	An essential outcome area of wellbeing which encompasses indicators related to a central subject
Early Childhood/early years	Refers to early development years of children, aged 0-5
Indicator	A broad and measurable concept that can indicate change
Family	Inclusive of related families, caregivers, guardians, kinship carers, foster or adoptive families and any other arrangements where children are in the official care of adults
Measure	A specific and quantifiable variable which addresses an indicator
Outcome	A goal or aspiration for the wellbeing of children and young people
Youth/young people	Young people, aged 10-17
Young adults/people	Young adults, aged 18-24

Further information about the development of the Story with context for each measure, referencing, data sources and appendices, can be found in the Northern Territory edition of the 2021 Story online, [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).





# People of Barkly

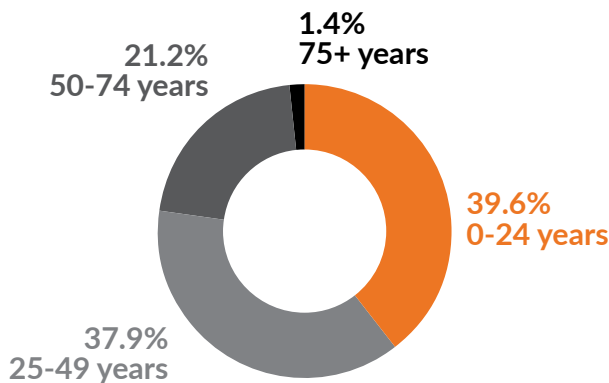
The Barkly region is located in the central desert area of the Northern Territory. The major centre is Tennant Creek, which incorporates seven community living areas. There are 13 other communities and 74 outstations in the region.



## POPULATION

Barkly has a population of 7,237 people. The region has the second largest Aboriginal population of all the regions after the Top End, with 3 in 4 people (74.7%) identifying as Aboriginal. Barkly is also the second youngest region after East Arnhem, with about 2 in 5 people (39.6%) aged 0-24. Almost 8 in 100 people (7.9%) were born overseas and almost 9 in 100 people (8.7%) lived interstate five years earlier.

### Age distribution of population



	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
Total population	7,237	3,253	3,984
Aboriginal people <sup>a</sup>	73.8%	60.2%	85.0%
Children and young people, aged 0-24	39.6%	34.9%	43.4%
People who were born overseas <sup>b</sup>	7.9%	13.9%	2.8%
People who lived interstate five years earlier <sup>b</sup>	8.7%	10.1%	7.5%

Data source and year: ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2019; <sup>a</sup> ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016; <sup>b</sup> ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

## FAMILIES



1 in 3 families, with children aged under 15 (33.3%), are single parent families. Of these, more than 8 in 10 (82.1%) have a female as the head of the family.

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
Families, with children aged under 15, who are single parent families	33.3%	36.8%	31.0%
Single parent families, who have a female as the head of the family	82.1%	84.8%	80.2%

## EMPLOYMENT



Almost half of people, aged 15-64 (49.2%), are participating in the workforce, of which about 1 in 5 people (17.9%) are unemployed. The proportion of the workforce unemployed is more than four times higher outside of Tennant Creek than in the main centre. Major employment industries in the region are public administration and safety, health care and social assistance, and agriculture, forestry and fishing.<sup>a</sup>

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
People, aged 15-64, who participate in the workforce (employed or actively looking for work)	49.2%	55.8%	43.3%
People who are unemployed, of those who participate in the workforce	17.9%	6.9%	30.4%

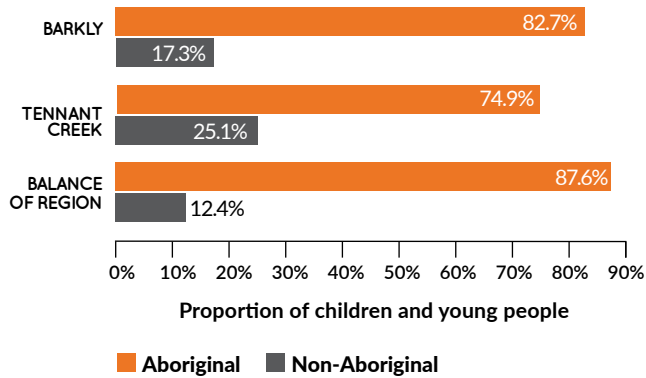
Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016. <sup>a</sup> ABS Housing and Population Census, 2016.

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



There are 2,863 children and young people, aged 0-24, in the region. More than half of these (1,728) live outside of Tennant Creek. More than 3 in 4 children and young people (82.7%) are Aboriginal, the second highest proportion of all the regions after the Top End.

## Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, by Aboriginal status



Data source and year: Modelled based on SA2, IARE and IREG 2016 ERP and the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016, prepared by PHIDU (special table).

## Number of children and young people

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
0-4 years	604	294	310
5-9 years	629	250	379
10-14 years	547	194	353
15-19 years	470	181	289
20-24 years	613	216	397
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>1,728</b>

Data source and year: ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2019.

# EDUCATION



About 1 in 4 people, aged 15 and over (23.5%), have a higher education qualification. For about 1 in 10 people (8.5%), Year 12 is their highest level of education and for 2 in 10 people (19.5%), Year 10 or equivalent is their highest level of education.

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
People, aged 15 and over, who have a higher education qualification (above Year 12 level)	23.5%	30.4%	17.2%
People, aged 15 and over, for whom Year 12 is their highest level of education	8.5%	10.4%	6.7%
People, aged 15 and over, for whom Year 10 or equivalent (including Year 11, Certificate I and II) is their highest level of education	19.5%	19.3%	19.6%

# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



Across Barkly, almost half of people (46.1%) speak a language other than English at home (including Aboriginal languages). 2 in 5 people (41.0%) only speak English and 2 in 5 people (40.5%) speak an Aboriginal language at home. More than twice as many people speak an Aboriginal language at home outside of Tennant Creek (54.5%) than in Tennant Creek (23.8%).

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
People who speak only English	41.0%	53.7%	30.3%
People who speak an Aboriginal language at home	40.5%	23.8%	54.5%
People who speak a language other than English at home (including Aboriginal languages)	46.1%	33.0%	57.1%

Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.



# Domain 1

## Being valued, loved and safe

Children and young people should be valued, loved and safe in the environment they grow up in, both in the family and the broader community. This need includes having loving family relationships, positive connections with their peers and other adults, and personal and community safety. These factors are critical for children and young people's healthy development and their ability to socialise, to understand society and to shape their future. When children are valued, loved and safe, they are more confident, resilient and have a stronger sense of identity.


The available data for this domain is service-based and commonly reports deficits rather than positive outcomes. The Editorial Committee investigated strength-based measures and there will be continued effort in the preparation of the 2023 Story.

There is the addition of one measure in this domain for the number of young people in detention. This new measure responds to a data gap identified in the 2019 Story.

In this domain, the two outcomes of safe families and safe communities are explored through eight indicators.


## 1.1 Safe families

### 1.1.1 Domestic and family violence

Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, in notifications with domestic and family violence recorded as a contributing factor 

		BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	647	352	295
	Proportion	29.6%	40.7%	22.3%
Aboriginal	Number	640	nr	nr
	Proportion	34.6%	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal	Number	7	nr	nr
	Proportion	2.2%	nr	nr

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).  
Note: (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.

Number of domestic and family violence offences where children, aged 0-17, were subject to violence or heard/saw the incident 



Data source and year: NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (special table extracted on 4 August 2021), 2020-21.  
Note: This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.

### 1.1.2 Child abuse or neglect

Child abuse and neglect refers to behaviour or treatment that either harms or has the potential to harm a child or young person, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, exposure to domestic and family violence, sexual abuse and neglect.

Number of notifications of child abuse or neglect

		BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All		2,811	1,803	1,008
Aboriginal		2,782	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal		29	nr	nr

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.  
Note: 1. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers. 2. Children can be reported on more than one occasion in a year.

Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, with notifications of child abuse or neglect

		BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	1,199	646	553
	Proportion	54.8%	74.7%	41.7%
Aboriginal	Number	1,183	nr	nr
	Proportion	63.9%	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal	Number	16	nr	nr
	Proportion	4.7%	nr	nr

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).  
Note: 1. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.



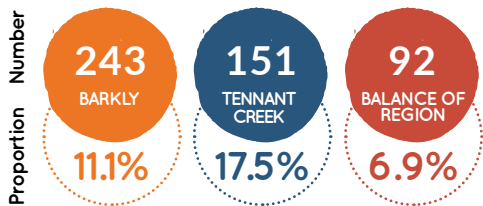
Substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect are those in which an investigation of a notification has confirmed there was reasonable cause to believe the child had been, or was likely to be harmed.

### Number of substantiated investigations for children, aged 0-17



Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.  
 Note: 1. In July 2018 the NT Government introduced the One Child One Case policy to improve the way in which the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities responds to subsequent notifications for children who have a current open case. As a result, fewer investigations have been commenced.  
 2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

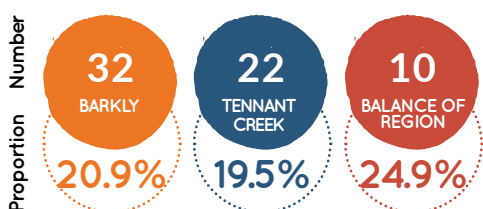
### Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, who were the subject of a substantiated investigation



Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).  
 Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

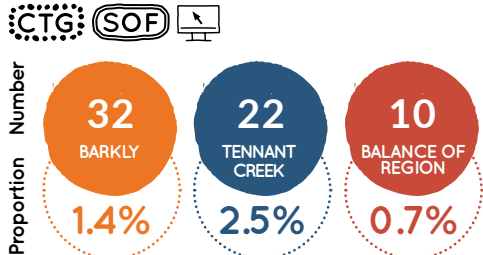
Resubstantiation refers to the circumstance when children who were the subject of a substantiated episode of child abuse and neglect are the subject of another substantiation within 12 months.

### Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, who were the subject of resubstantiation, within 12 months



Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using numbers of children who were the subject of a substantiated investigation in 2019-20.  
 Note: 1. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.  
 2. In July 2018 the NT Government introduced the One Child One Case policy to improve the way in which the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities responds to subsequent notifications for children who have a current open case. As a result, fewer investigations have been commenced.

### Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, in out-of-home care 2020-21



Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).  
 Note: 1. Numbers are estimated as at 1 July 2021. 2. Geography is where children are placed and not where they are from. 3. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 1.2 Safe communities

### 1.2.1 House break-ins

The number of reported house break-in offences for houses with children is not available, however there is data on all house break-in offences. This was chosen as one measure of community safety as it relates to a child's sense of safety in their community and at home.

#### Number of house break-in offences

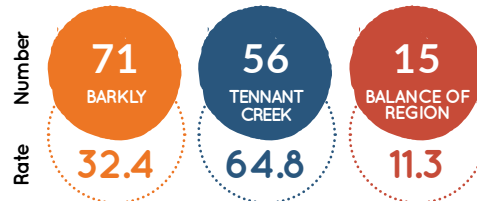


Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 11 August 2021), 2020-21.

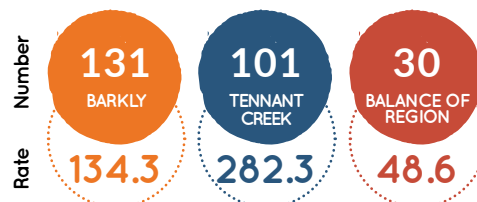
### 1.2.2 Children and young people as victims of crime

Offences against the person are crimes that involve physical harm or force, such as physical assault.

#### Number and annual rate (per 1,000 population) of victims, aged 0-17, of an offence against a person



#### Number and annual rate (per 1,000 population) of victims, aged 18-24, of an offence against a person




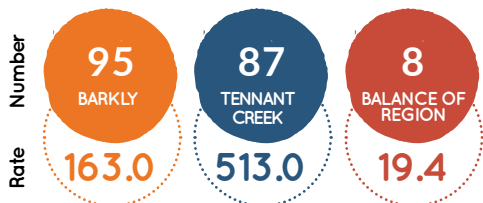
Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 11 August 2021), 2020-21. Rates calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).  
 Note: 1. Crimes are counted once for each incident. Victims may be counted more than once, for different incidents, in a year. 2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.




## 1.2.3 Young people involved in crime

An apprehension is any offence where a young person was arrested, issued a summons or notice to appear before court, or referred for youth diversion.

Number and rate (per 1,000 population) of apprehensions of males, aged 10-17 



Number and rate (per 1,000 population) of apprehensions of females, aged 10-17 

		BARKLY
All	Number	32
	Rate	61.6
Aboriginal	Number	32
	Rate	84.7
Non-Aboriginal	Number	0
	Rate	0

Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 17 August 2021), 2020-21. Rates calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).  
 Note: 1. Number and rate of apprehensions of males is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers. 2. Number and rate of apprehensions of females is not reportable by sub-region due to small numbers. 3. Apprehensions are calculated as one event for a person for one date. 4. In July 2020 the NT Department of Attorney General and Justice changed their standard counting rules to include where a young person received a 'Youth Diversion Assessment' as they are alleged to have committed an offence(s).

## 1.2.4 Youth diversion

Youth diversion programs include written or verbal warnings, family group conferences and victim-offender group conferences.

Number of diversions for young people, aged 10-17 



Data source and year: NT Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Services (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.  
 Note: 1. This measure is not reportable by sub-region due to small numbers. 2. This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.

## 1.2.5 Young people in detention

Daily average number of young people, aged 10-17, in a youth detention centre  

	BARKLY
All	2.2
Aboriginal	2.2
Non-Aboriginal	0

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 19 August 2021), 2020-21.  
 Note: 1. This measure is not available by sub-region. 2. This measure reports where the young person was located at the time of the offence.

## 1.2.6 Young people in prison

Daily average number of young men and women, aged 18-24, in Northern Territory prisons

		BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
Men	All	19.8	18.7	1.1
	Aboriginal	20.0	18.5	1.1
	Non-Aboriginal	0.2	0.2	0
Women	All	0.8	0.8	0
	Aboriginal	0.8	0.8	0
	Non-Aboriginal	0	0	0

Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)





## Domain 2

# Having material basics

Material basics are the foundational elements that children and young people need in life. These include a safe house to live in, adequate and nutritious food, clean water and appropriate clothing. Income is crucial for a family to pay for basic living expenses. Children who experience poverty early in life are more likely to experience ongoing disadvantage.

The majority of the measures in this domain are reported from the 2016 Census and so there are no changes since the 2019 Story. A measure specific to children, aged 14 and under, has been added to the indicator of internet access. Mobile phone use remains a data gap.

In this domain, four outcomes of financial stability, adequate housing, communication and technology, and access to transport are explored through six indicators.

## 2.1 Financial stability

### 2.1.1 Socioeconomic disadvantage

The measure of Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is a score for relative socioeconomic disadvantage, with scores below 1,000 indicating relative disadvantage, and scores above 1,000 indicating relative advantage.

Scores for relative socioeconomic disadvantage



Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

### 2.1.2 Family income

Department of Social Services classify households with children aged 15 and under, earning under \$36,515 per annum in receipt of the Family Tax Benefit Part A as 'low income' households.

Proportion (%) of children, aged 15 and under, living in low income households



Data source and year: Department of Social Services, prepared by PHIDU (special table), June 2017.

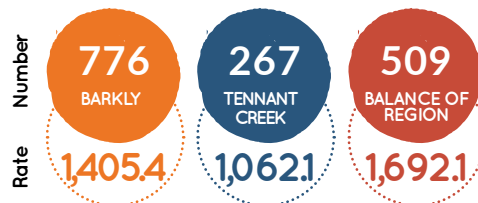
Note: 1. Households are private dwellings only. 2. This measure is not available by sub-region or Aboriginal status.

## 2.2 Adequate housing

### 2.2.1 Severely crowded households

The ABS defines households as severely crowded when four or more extra bedrooms would be needed to accommodate the number of people usually living there. Information on overcrowding is not available for families, children or young people. This measure is based on people of any age.

Number and rate (per 10,000 of the population) of people living in severely crowded dwellings



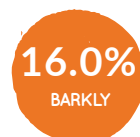
Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

Note: 1. Rates are expressed as number per 10,000 population of usual residents. 2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 2.2.2 Children and young people who are homeless

The ABS defines homelessness as the condition when a person's current living arrangement is in a dwelling that is inadequate; has no secure tenure; or does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations. This includes people living in temporary arrangements, boarding houses, tents or sleep out and in severely overcrowded dwellings.

Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, who are homeless



Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.


Note: This measure is not available by sub-region or Aboriginal status.

## 2.3 Communication and technology

### 2.3.1 Internet access

Proportion (%) of households where internet was accessed from dwelling   

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	58.6%	68.4%	45.7%
Aboriginal	43.0%	50.5%	37.1%
Non-Aboriginal	77.9%	81.7%	67.7%

Proportion (%) of children, aged 14 and under, living in dwellings from which internet was not accessed 

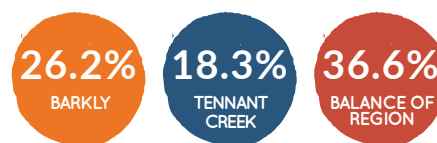
	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	46.0%	33.1%	53.8%
Aboriginal	52.5%	43.0%	56.9%
Non-Aboriginal	12.1%	10.0%	17.1%

Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

## 2.4 Access to transport

### 2.4.1 Household access to a vehicle

Proportion (%) of dwellings with no motor vehicle 



Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.





# Domain 3

## Being healthy

It is essential to take good care of the health and wellbeing of children and young people to ensure good health and opportunity into adulthood. Health is impacted by many factors including individual physiology, lifestyle, environmental and cultural influences and access to appropriate health care and support services. Children are particularly vulnerable in their early years and dependent on parents and caregivers for their physical and emotional needs.

There have been a number of developments in the measures used to indicate the health of children and young people from the 2019 Story. A measure of pre-term births has been added and three indicators of the health of young people have been added to address data gaps identified in 2019 – smoking prevalence, being mentally healthy and incidence of sexually transmissible infections.

In this domain, three outcomes of healthy before birth, healthy in the first year and growing up healthy are explored through 16 indicators, one case study and one cultural story of wellness.

### 3.1 Healthy before birth

#### 3.1.1 Early antenatal visits

Antenatal care is the care received from health professionals during pregnancy to support the health of both the pregnant woman and the unborn child.

Proportion (%) of pregnant women with first antenatal visit in first trimester (less than 14 weeks)



	BARKLY
All	61.7%
Aboriginal	53.9%
Non-Aboriginal	96.2%

Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

#### 3.1.2 Regular antenatal visits

Proportion (%) of pregnant women who attended five or more antenatal visits



	BARKLY
All	83.7%
Aboriginal	80.0%
Non-Aboriginal	100%

Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

#### 3.1.3 Teenage mothers

Proportion (%) of births to women aged under 20

	BARKLY
All	13.4%
Aboriginal	16.4%
Non-Aboriginal	0%

Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

#### 3.1.4 Smoking during pregnancy

Proportion (%) of pregnant women who reported smoking during pregnancy



Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region and is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)



## HEALING SMOKING CEREMONY

**“My name is Nampin, short for Nambijinpa and I am a Warumungu woman. We have lots of stories. In the smoking ceremony, we have a story inside it. If you do a smoking ceremony, a child grows up to be strong and active in their blood line. Their body gets stronger. The smoking leads you to be a person who will be a strong adult.**

We have two ways of smoking – one smoking is about a bad spirit. If we have family loss, we have a smoking ceremony. The other smoking is a healing one. Good healing spirit smoking happens when you are young, even when you are a baby. We have particular bush medicines we use. For the healing spirit smoking we use three healing plants, mungkarta, murlurr, mungarrija and yakkurla, a wax.

First we dig a hole, then we put in the spinifex and twigs. The yakkurla goes next, and then branches of the three bush medicine plants. We light the spinifex and then the healing ceremony takes place. We let it smoke, and then when the big smoke comes out and there are no flames, we sit on it.

As the child grows, we smoke them through the different life changes. When they sit, walk, as they become a teenager, and then as they become parents themselves. We do it anytime, because it is healing. It heals your spirit and your body. You feel it. I feel comfortable because I’ve been through that smoking. The spirits heal you.

That is how we grew up to be strong. For myself, I know I grew up strong to take part in my elders’ information. I keep strong to pass it on to the next generation.”



Top: Nampin (Dianne Stokes) with Noreen Echo picking from the mungkarta plant

Right: Branches of the three bush medicine plants, from left to right, mungkarta, murlurr, mungarrija and yakkurla, the wax

## 3.1.5 Alcohol consumption during pregnancy

Proportion (%) of babies exposed to alcohol in first trimester of pregnancy 



Proportion (%) of babies exposed to alcohol in third trimester of pregnancy 



	BARKLY
All	4.9%
Aboriginal	6.0%
Non-Aboriginal	0%

Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: 1. Exposure to alcohol in first trimester is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers. 2. This measure is not available by sub-region.

## 3.2 Healthy in the first year

### 3.2.1 Pre-term births

Pre-term birth is associated with increased risks including long-term neurological disability, re-admission to hospital in the first year of life and perinatal death.

Proportion (%) of pre-term births (less than 37 weeks)  



Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region and is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.



### 3.2.2 Low birthweight

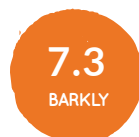
Proportion (%) of babies born with low birthweight (less than 2,500g) 



Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region and is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 3.2.3 Infant mortality

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)  



Data source and year: Australian Coordinating Registry, Cause of Death Unit Record Files, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2014-18.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region or Aboriginal status.

## 3.2.4 Breastfeeding

Proportion (%) of babies exclusively breastfed to 6 months of age 



Data source and year: 2017-18 National Health Survey and 2018-2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, ABS. Data extracted for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal populations separately using ABS TableBuilder and combined, 9 August 2021 (special table).  
Note: 1. Survey results for children aged 6 months to 3 years at time of data collection. 2. The 2019 Story reported exclusive breastfeeding to 3 months of age. 3. This measure is not available by region or Aboriginal status.

## 3.3 Growing up healthy



### 3.3.1 Child immunisation

Proportion (%) of children fully immunised at age two 



Data source and year: Australian Immunisation Register, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2018.  
Note: This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.

### 3.3.2 Bodyweight for children and young people

Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 2-19, who were overweight or obese  



Data source and year: 2017-18 National Health Survey and 2018-2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, ABS. Data extracted for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal populations separately using ABS TableBuilder and combined, 9 August 2021 (special table).  
Note: This measure is not available by region.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)



## ATHLETE AND ROLE MODEL

Sherika Mahoney, aged 12, from Alpururulam lost her leg when she was six months old. She received her first prosthetic running blade in 2019, and that same year went on to represent her school at the Barkly Region Interschool Athletics Carnival.

After doing well at the regional competition, Sherika was selected to represent the Barkly region at the Northern Territory Athletics Carnival. Sherika was then selected to represent the Northern Territory at the Australian School Sports Athletics Carnival in long jump, 100 metre sprint and the relay event, where she won a gold medal for relay and set School Sports Australia records for long jump and the 100 metre race.

Sherika says when she was competing she felt “really scared then happy after I won.” She encourages other children with disabilities or facing other challenges participating in sport. “They can do anything they want as I have.”


Barkly Sports Education Coordinator, Pam Dillon, says Sherika has become a role model for her peers and inspires them, “They can see that you can go from a little remote school, way out, so far away – and go to national level.”

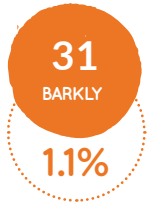
Sherika was a finalist in the 2021 Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards in recognition for her achievements in sport. She continues to train and says in the future she would like to “do athletics for [the] Australian team”.

Photo: Sherika at the Barkly Athletics Carnival in Tennant Creek, June 2021



### 3.3.3 Children and young people with a disability

Number and proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, who have need for assistance with core activities 



Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.  
Note: This measure is not reportable by sub-region or Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 3.3.4 Mentally healthy


Mental health-related conditions are common and only a small proportion of individuals with these conditions are ever admitted to hospital. However, hospital admission records provide a consistent and reliable measure for mental health.

Number and rate (per 10,000 population) of hospital admissions for mental health-related conditions for young people, aged 15-24 



Data source and year: NT Department of Health (special table), 2020. Rates calculated using ABS Census 2016 data, prepared by PHIDU (special table).  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region and is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 3.3.5 Smoking prevalence among young people

Proportion (%) of young men and women, aged 15-24, who are current smokers 

	NORTHERN TERRITORY
Men	46.3%
Women	24.5%

Data source and year: 2017-18 National Health Survey and 2018-2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, ABS. Data extracted for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal populations separately using ABS TableBuilder and combined, 9 August 2021 (special table).  
Note: This measure is not available by region or Aboriginal status.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)

### 3.3.6 Sexually transmissible infections

Data is not available for all sexually transmissible infections (STIs). This Story reports the rates of two common diseases, chlamydia and gonorrhoea.

Number and rate (per 100,000 population) of chlamydia and gonorrhoea notifications among young people, aged 15-24

		BARKLY
Chlamydia	Number	46
	Rate	3,565.2
Gonorrhoea	Number	47
	Rate	3,642.7

Data source and year: NT Department of Health (special table), 2020. Rates calculated using ABS Census 2016 data, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table).  
Note: 1. Data are reported by NT health districts, which varies marginally from the geography used elsewhere in this Story. 2. This measure is not available by sub-region.

### 3.3.7 Death of children and young people

Death rate (per 100,000 population) for children, aged 1-14, and young people, aged 15-24 

	NORTHERN TERRITORY
Children	32.5
Young people	119.0

Data source and year: ABS 3303.0 Causes of Death, 2019.  
Note: 1. ABS rates are based on preliminary death data and are subject to revision. 2. This measure is not available by region or Aboriginal status due to small numbers.





# Domain 4 Learning

Children and young people are constantly learning as they grow and develop. Learning takes place in many ways, at home with family, through interaction with the wider community and in formal settings, like schools.

There are a number of developments, from the 2019 Story, in this domain. A measure of developmentally on track has been added as an additional indicator for transitioning to school. There has been a change in the measure for preschool attendance to report the proportion of children attending a preschool program for 15 hours or more per week, to be consistent with national reporting. A measure

of vocational education and training participation has also been added.

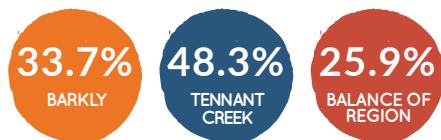
In this domain six outcomes of parent engagement in learning, early childhood learning, transitioning into school, school attendance, school progress and vocational learning are explored through 15 indicators and three case studies.

## 4.1 Parent engagement in learning

### 4.1.1 Reading at home

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide survey of how young children are developing and their readiness for formal schooling as they begin their first year of full-time school. Teachers complete a questionnaire based on their knowledge and observation of the children in their class.

Proportion (%) of children who are regularly read to or encouraged to read at home



Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: 1. Results include teachers' responses of 'Somewhat true' or 'Very true'.  
2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 4.1.2 Participation in Families as First Teachers

There are a number of early childhood and family support programs, Families as First Teachers (FaFT) being one of them. The aim of FaFT is to improve developmental outcomes for children by working with families and children, aged 0-4, prior to school entry. Data is not available to measure Territory-wide participation in similar programs.

Participation in Families as First Teachers program



	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
Number of communities	8	1	7
Number of children	385	126	259
Average days for children	15.6	17.1	14.9

Data source and year: Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: 1. Children can attend multiple FaFT program sites during the year; each child is counted once in a sub-region; data for the region may count a child more than once if they have attended a FaFT program in more than one sub-region in the year. 2. The average days is the average number of days each child attended over the reporting period.





## THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIP – UPDATE

COVID-19 restrictions impacted the delivery of the Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program in Elliott in 2020. Attendance dropped and some families moved away. Since the end of 2020, FaFT has been focusing on bringing the program to family homes or other areas in the community, to engage and support families in a way which is easier for them. The team have also begun an outreach program in the school of a nearby community, Newcastle Waters, for one day a week.

Photo: FaFT and pre-school children learning together

### 4.1.3 Parent engagement with school

Proportion (%) of children whose parents or caregivers are actively engaged with the school in supporting their child's learning (SOF)



Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: 1. Results include teachers' responses of 'Somewhat true' or 'Very true'.  
2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 4.2 Early childhood learning

### 4.2.1 Child care attendance

Proportion (%) of children, aged 0-5, attending approved child care (SOF)

	BARKLY
All	6.2%
Aboriginal	3.1%
Non-Aboriginal	20.0%

Data source and year: Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table), December quarter 2020. Proportions calculated using ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

### 4.2.2 Preschool attendance

Proportion (%) of children, aged 4, attending a preschool program (CTG) (SOF)

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	48.6%	67.4%	34.9%
Aboriginal	42.7%	58.8%	33.9%
Non-Aboriginal	92.3%	91.7%	100%

Proportion (%) of children, aged 4, attending a preschool program for 15 hours or more per week

	BARKLY
All	58.5%
Aboriginal	48.8%
Non-Aboriginal	91.7%

Data source and year: Age Grade Census, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 2020. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).

Note: 1. Data include NT Government and Catholic schools only and does not include preschool programs provided at centre-based care by a qualified worker.  
2. Proportion of children attending a preschool program for 15 hours or more is not reportable by sub-region due to small numbers.





## DATA GATHERING TO INFORM SERVICE DELIVERY

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Return to Country program encouraged people to return from urban areas to their country. In Tennant Creek, community organisations realised that to facilitate this program they needed a better understanding of who was living in the town's Community Living Areas (CLAs).

There are challenges with maintaining accurate demographic data, given the most recent census was conducted in 2016. Julalikari Community Connectors and Connected Beginnings backbone team partnered to address this gap with an audit of households in the seven CLAs in Tennant Creek. The Connected Beginnings backbone team were also interested in accurate data about the numbers of families with children who lived in the CLAs, to support their engagement with early years services.

Staff from both organisations were trained and mentored in data collection and analysis. Over one month, the team, working in pairs, surveyed every household in the seven CLAs.

Along with informing the efforts to safely return people to country and protect against the risk of COVID-19, the data collection produced other valuable insights.

The survey found of a population of 624, a high proportion (30.8%) were children, aged 0-17. The survey revealed low early childhood education attendance with 20 out of 87 children, aged 0-5, regularly attending an early learning program.

As a result of this increased understanding of the population's needs, follow up visits were organised to support a small group of families to ensure child immunisations were up to date, birth certificates obtained and full health checks and enrolment forms completed. 'Ready for preschool packs' were developed and used by 50 children. There were an additional 10 new preschool enrolments in Term 1, 2021 from these families.

"This project demonstrates how good data and a comprehensive understanding of the population can help inform service delivery and ensure targeted approaches meet community needs," Deborah Hartman, Connected Beginnings.

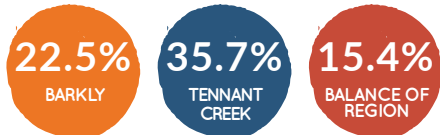
Photo: Ingrid Williams from the Connected Beginnings backbone team with Nellie Morrison from Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation visiting families

## 4.3 Transitioning into school

### 4.3.1 Developmentally on track

The AEDC measures the early development of children aged 5 across five key domains: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based), and communication skills and general knowledge. Children are considered 'developmentally on track' if they score in the top 75% of the scores for the reference population in a domain.

Proportion (%) of children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains   





Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.



Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 4.3.2 Developmental vulnerability

Children are considered 'developmentally vulnerable' if they score in the lowest 10% of the scores for the reference population in a domain.

Proportion (%) of children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains  



Proportion (%) of children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains  





Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 4.3.3 Developmental strengths

The Multiple Strengths Indicator (MSI) was developed in 2017 to complement the existing AEDC measures of vulnerability with a strength-based view of early childhood development. The MSI uses the same Early Development Instrument used in the AEDC and has 39 items.

Proportion (%) of children assessed as having highly developed, well developed and emerging strengths using Multiple Strengths Indicator  

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
Highly developed strengths	25.0%	32.1%	21.2%
Well developed strengths	20.0%	nr	nr
Emerging strengths	55.0%	53.6%	55.8%

Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: 1. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers. 2. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.

### 4.3.4 Transition attendance

School attendance in Transition, NT Government Schools  

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	45.3%	53.9%	37.7%
Aboriginal	41.7%	47.5%	37.4%
Non-Aboriginal	78.0%	79.8%	56.8%

Data source and year: Enrolment and Attendance data, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: Data reporting period covers weeks 1 to 4 and weeks 5 to 8 of each term in a calendar year.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)






## 4.4 School attendance

### 4.4.1 School attendance

School attendance in Year 3, NT Government schools  

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	55.8%	68.0%	41.9%
Aboriginal	50.1%	60.9%	40.3%
Non-Aboriginal	87.4%	90.4%	nr

School attendance in Year 7, NT Government Schools   



Data source and year: Enrolment and Attendance data, prepared by the NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: 1. Data reporting period covers weeks 1 to 4 and weeks 5 to 8 of each term in a calendar year. 2. Year 7 attendance is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers. 3. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.

Proportion (%) of all Preschool to Year 12 students, with more than 80% school attendance, NT Government schools  






Data source and year: Enrolment and Attendance data, prepared by the NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: 1. Students who are passive at the end of the reporting period are excluded. 2. Students can attend multiple school sites during the year; each student is counted once in a sub-region; region data may count a child more than once if they have attended a school site in more than one sub-region in the year. 3. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 4.4.2 Continuation to Year 12

This measure is the proportion of students enrolled in Year 12, out of all students enrolled in the corresponding cohort in Year 7, for Northern Territory Government and Catholic schools. The rate may not accurately reflect all students who have completed Year 12 as students may travel to attend school in other regions or interstate.

Apparent retention from Year 7 to Year 12   

	BARKLY
All	9.2%
Aboriginal	5.3%
Non-Aboriginal	71.4%

Data source and year: Age Grade Census data, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: 1. Data include NT Government and Catholic schools only. 2. Data is an underestimate due to interstate movement of students between Years 7 and 12 to complete school. Similarly results for regions may under or overestimate apparent retention as a result of movement of students between regions. This is most common with students from remote areas going to Greater Darwin and to Alice Springs to complete school. 3. This measure is not available by sub-region.

## 4.5 School progress

### 4.5.1 Literacy and numeracy skills


The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a nationwide annual assessment for students. The test assesses skills considered essential to progress through school in the domains of reading and writing, language conventions and numeracy. Due to the disruptions to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, NAPLAN assessments were not completed in 2020.

Proportion (%) of students in Year 3 reaching the minimum national standard in literacy 

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	64.2%	61.1%	66.7%
Aboriginal	62.0%	57.1%	65.1%
Non-Aboriginal	80.0%	75.0%	nr

Proportion (%) of students in Year 3 reaching the minimum national standard in numeracy 

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	50.7%	63.0%	42.5%
Aboriginal	45.6%	57.9%	39.5%
Non-Aboriginal	80.0%	75.0%	nr

Proportion (%) of students in Year 7 reaching the minimum national standard in literacy 

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	33.3%	45.2%	nr
Aboriginal	20.7%	25.8%	nr
Non-Aboriginal	100.0%	100.0%	nr

Proportion (%) of students in Year 7 reaching the minimum national standard in numeracy 

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	51.5%	53.5%	48.0%
Aboriginal	43.9%	40.6%	48.0%
Non-Aboriginal	90.9%	90.9%	nr

Data source and year: NT Department of Education (special table), 2019.

Note: 1. Data include NT Government and Catholic schools only. 2. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)

## 4.5.2 Year 12 or equivalent completion

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 20-24, who have attained a Year 12 or equivalent qualification  

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	24.8%	36.4%	18.3%
Aboriginal	15.1%	26.2%	10.1%
Non-Aboriginal	63.3%	61.3%	65.1%

Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016

## 4.5.3 NTCET completion

The Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) is the final school qualification for students in the Northern Territory.



Proportion (%) of enrolled students who completed NTCET 

This measure is not reportable for Barkly due to small numbers.

## 4.6 Vocational learning

### 4.6.1 Vocational education and training participation

This measure reports young people, aged 15-24, who participated in both government subsidised and fee for service vocational education and training (VET) enrolments in 2019, regardless of the year they commenced. It includes school students engaged in VET.

Number and rate (per 1,000 population) of young people, aged 15-24, who participate in vocational education and training  

		BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	330	200	130
	Rate	255.4	419.0	159.3
Aboriginal	Number	170	108	62
	Rate	164.0	293.7	92.4
Non-Aboriginal	Number	160	92	68
	Rate	624.4	838.9	463.8

Data source and year: NCVET Total VET Activity prepared by NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (special table), 2019. Rates calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).





## HEALTHY MEALS TO SUPPORT STUDENT FOCUS AND LEARNING

The School Nutrition Program was established by the Commonwealth Government in 2007 to improve school attendance, engagement and learning by providing healthy, nutritious meals (breakfast, morning tea and lunch) to children enrolled in selected schools from Transition to Year 12. The program also aims to provide employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people.

In Elliott, 250 km north of Tennant Creek, the program is delivered by Saltbush Social Enterprises at the Elliott School. Meals are provided to about 65 students, 98% of whom identify as Aboriginal. Families are encouraged to contribute financially towards the cost of the meals.

Kevin Gaskin, Elliott School Principal said, “The program supports our school to create a teaching and learning environment which enables our students to be healthy, happy, engaged and successful. The prepared meals give students the energy to actively engage in their learning throughout the school day.”

In 2017, an independent evaluation of the program conducted by Menzies School of Health Research found it was considered by community members and stakeholders across the Northern Territory to be a valuable program which had positive impacts for children, families and the wider community.

Jun Zhang, the Program Coordinator at Saltbush said, “The program has seen a positive impact on the wider community in regard to making healthy nutrition choices.” The evaluation identified this benefit, saying it had found the program had reinforced social and life skills.

The evaluation determined the benefits of the program extended beyond its primary objectives, by taking pressure off families and the community, being integrated with and supporting the school curriculum, providing health and behavioural outcomes, and by ensuring children receive appropriate food.

Photo: Abbey at Elliott School enjoying morning tea





# Domain 5

## Participating

It is important for the wellbeing of children and young people that they actively participate with their peers and within the community. Participation can take many forms – it can include children and young people being involved in sport, recreational or social activities, or volunteering with community groups. A key element of participation is children and young people being listened to and supported to have a say on issues affecting their lives and their community.

Measures in this domain focus on young people, aged 15 and above, as there is a lack of reliable information for participation among younger age groups other than formal education. Most measures in this domain use census data. As the latest census was in 2016, the data in these measures has not changed since the 2019 Story (except for some minor adjustments for changed regional boundaries).

In this domain, the two outcomes of participation in employment or learning and participation in the community, are explored through five indicators and one case study.

### 5.1 Participation in employment or education

#### 5.1.1 Young people earning or learning

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who are engaged in school, work or further education and/or training (SOF) (CTG) (M)

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	39.8%	51.2%	32.9%
Aboriginal	29.4%	43.6%	22.3%
Non-Aboriginal	91.1%	83.2%	99.1%

Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

#### 5.1.2 Unemployment among young people

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who are unemployed (SOF) (M)

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	27.2%	10.7%	38.5%
Aboriginal	49.2%	24.7%	62.3%
Non-Aboriginal	0%	0%	0%

Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.





## BUILDING PATHWAYS FOR ATHLETIC – UPDATE

The Barkly interschool athletics program offers students an opportunity to participate in a regional competition. Despite the challenges in 2020, due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions to remote communities, the sports program continued to run with students in Tennant Creek while a virtual cricket competition was held across remote schools.

The annual Barkly Region Interschool Athletics and Swimming Carnival was held later in 2020 with nine schools attending for athletics and 12 for swimming.

The 2021 carnival was held in June and activities happened across the region to prepare students in the first half of 2021.

Photo: Marius from Elliott School competing at the 2021 Barkly Region Interschool Athletics and Swimming Carnival

## 5.1.3 Community Development Program participation

The Community Development Program (CDP) is an Australian Government employment program operated in remote areas. The program aims to improve job seekers' skills and improve their employability, as well as benefiting the local community.

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, participating in the CDP



Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 5.2 Participation in the community

### 5.2.1 Young people volunteering

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who spent time doing voluntary work (SOF)

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	10.3%	11.9%	9.4%
Aboriginal	7.3%	5.7%	8.1%
Non-Aboriginal	19.3%	24.8%	13.7%

Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

### 5.2.2 Young people enrolled to vote

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 18-24, enrolled to vote (SOF)



Data source and year: NT Electoral Commission, 31 March 2021. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).

Note: 1. Proportions are calculated using estimated resident populations, with no adjustment for residents not eligible to vote. 2. This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.





## Domain 6

# Positive sense of identity and culture

Having a positive sense of identity and culture is fundamental to a child or young person's wellbeing. Identity and culture are broad topics which are complex to define. Identity is generally understood to be a person's sense of self, their understanding of who they are, both individually and within their social context. Culture can be described as a shared approach and understanding of people's existence in relation to other people and their environment. Culture encompasses intangible concepts such as religion or spirituality, value systems and norms of behaviour as well as tangible or material items such as food, clothing, art and literature.


Many of the measures in this domain are reported from the 2016 Census with no update to the data available. In this Story there are a number of developments in the measures. The language spoken at home measure has been expanded to include the proportion of young people who speak Aboriginal languages. There are two additional measures presenting

information on language and culture in schools and Aboriginal employment in the Northern Territory Government.

In this domain, the three outcomes of connection to culture, spirituality and cultural diversity are explored through eight indicators.

## 6.1 Connection to culture

### 6.1.1 Language spoken at home

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who speak English, Aboriginal languages and other languages at home 

		BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
English	All	35.5%	46.5%	29.0%
	Aboriginal	26.4%	40.8%	19.1%
	Non-Aboriginal	85.1%	71.3%	99.0%
All Aboriginal languages		45.6%	32.4%	53.5%
Arnhem Land and Daly River Region Languages		2.0%	na	na
Northern Desert Fringe Area Languages		11.2%	na	na
Arandic		25.1%	na	na
Western Desert Languages		1.1%	na	na
Other Australian Indigenous Languages		10.1%	na	na

Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016. Note: 1. Languages spoken at home by less than 1% of the population are not included in this table. 2. When English is recorded it indicates only English is spoken at home. 3. (na) not available.

### 6.1.2 Connection to Aboriginal culture

Connection to Aboriginal culture is complex and varied, often stemming from practices in the family, in ceremonies and on country which differ across nations and language groups. There is not a measure to adequately represent this connection.

### 6.1.3 Aboriginal culture in the workplace

Proportion (%) of employees of the Northern Territory Government who identify as Aboriginal 



Data source and year: NT Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (special table), June 2021. Note: 1. Data include permanent, temporary, contract and casual employees. 2. Data does not include Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and NT Legal Aid.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)

## 6.1.4 Language and culture in schools

Proportion (%) of classroom teachers in Northern Territory Government schools who identify as Aboriginal



Data source and year: PIPS pay data, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 24 June 2020.  
Note: Data exclude other teaching staff (assistant or senior teachers and teaching principals) and school council employees.

## 6.1.5 Organisations promoting culture

Number of registered organisations promoting culture and the arts



Data source and year: Register of Cultural Organisations – Australian Government, 5 March 2021.  
Note: 1. Numbers reflect Registered Cultural Organisations (organisations that can receive tax deductible donations and which promote cultural arts and language diversity). For a full list go to: [www.arts.gov.au](http://www.arts.gov.au). 2. This measure is not available by sub-region.

## 6.2 Spirituality

### 6.2.1 Connection to Aboriginal spirituality

Aboriginal spirituality is broad and holistic and can be understood as a framework that guides all aspects of life including relationships with family, community, environment, animals, plants and the land. While this is an important indicator of wellbeing for Aboriginal children and young people there is no quantitative measure of spirituality for Aboriginal children and young people.

## 6.2.2 Connection to a faith tradition

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, identifying with a religion

	BARKLY	TENNANT CREEK	BALANCE OF REGION
All	55.5%	44.8%	61.8%
Aboriginal	58.5%	47.9%	63.8%
Non-Aboriginal	59.1%	48.5%	69.8%

Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.  
Note: Religion does not include secular or other spiritual beliefs.

## 6.3 Cultural diversity

### 6.3.1 Overseas-born

Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, born overseas



Proportion (%) of Australian-born children and young people, aged 0-24, who have both parents born overseas



Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.  
Note: This measure is not reportable by sub-region due to small numbers.



## DATA CONSIDERATIONS

**This Barkly Story provides more extensive information than presented in the Story of Our Children and Young People, Northern Territory 2021. The data presented in this Barkly Story is drawn from the data platform which may result in minor differences to the data presented in the Northern Territory 2021 edition.**

The main reason for this variation is there some records with missing data for Aboriginal status, location or gender (when reported). Missing data is treated differently between the Northern Territory 2021 edition and this Barkly Story:

- In the Northern Territory 2021 edition, records with missing data are included at the level for which data is available with a note reporting missing data for other levels of reporting. For example, if a record does not have location data for a region, the item will be reported for the Northern Territory but excluded in the regional data.
- This Barkly Story and the operation of the data platform requires consistency of data between levels of reporting. This requires exclusion of the small number of records with missing data for location, Aboriginal status or gender at all levels of reporting. For example, if a measure presents data by Aboriginal status then records with missing data for Aboriginal status are excluded from all levels of reporting for that measure.

A separate technical consideration is the need for care when publishing data with small counts due to the risk of confidentiality. Data with a count of less than 5 have been suppressed. It is also necessary to suppress related data which allow the calculation of the small number. The suppression of data with small counts has resulted in some items being 'not reportable'. The presentation of information by sub-region and Aboriginal status has resulted in an increase in the amount of data that are 'not reportable'.

For further technical commentary on the data, read Appendix I on page 128 of the Story of Our Children and Young People, Northern Territory 2021.

## ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
AEDC	Australian Early Development Census
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ARACY	Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
CDP	Community Development Program
CFCA	Child Friendly Community Australia
FaFT	Families as First Teachers
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex and Asexual
MSI	Multiple Strength Indicator
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
NT	Northern Territory
NTCET	Northern Territory Certificate of Education
PHIDU	Public Health Information Development Unit
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
WHO	World Health Organisation



# Where to from here?

For our children and young people of Barkly to flourish and reach their potential, there are basic human needs which must be met. While many of our children and young people are flourishing, there are too many who face substantial challenges. The data in this Story highlight both indications of positive change and areas where considerable improvement is needed.

Further information is available for all measures in this Story on the data platform, allowing comparison with Australia, Northern Territory and its other regions. Trend data for select measures is also included to consider changes over time. Use the platform at [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](https://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).

## Process towards the next Story



This is the second Story, a biennial commitment by the Northern Territory Government to track progress over time across key indicators of wellbeing for children and young people. In 2023, progress will again be reviewed through both data measures and stories of positive change. Attention will once more be given to meeting identified data gaps and there will be continued effort to report relevant local indicators.

Further information about the development of the Story and its indicators, with referencing, data sources and appendices, can be found in the Northern Territory edition of the 2021 Story at [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](https://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).

