

2014 -

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15

ANNUAL  
REPORT



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# LETTER OF REPRESENTATION TO THE MINISTERS

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The Hon Bess Price MLA  
Minister for Local Government and Community Services  
The Hon Adam Giles  
Chief Minister  
Parliament House  
Darwin NT 0800

Dear Ministers

In accordance with section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, I am pleased to submit the 2014-15 annual report on the activities and achievements of the Department of Local Government and Community Services.

Pursuant to the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the *Financial Management Act* and the *Information Act*, I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- a) proper records of all transactions affecting the department are kept and employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and Treasurer's Directions
- b) procedures within the department afford proper internal control and these procedures are recorded in the department's Accounting and Property Manual, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*
- c) there is no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in, or omission from, the accounts and records
- d) in accordance with section 15 of the *Financial Management Act*, the internal audit capacity is adequate and the results of internal audits have been reported to me
- e) the financial statements included in the annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions
- f) all Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied
- g) in respect of my responsibilities pursuant to section 131 of the *Information Act*, I advise that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the department is working in compliance with Part 9 of the *Information Act*.

Yours sincerely



Mike Chiodo  
Chief Executive

30 September, 2015

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This report has been prepared according to the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the *Financial Management Act* and the *Information Act*.

It provides a comprehensive account of the department's functions, responsibilities and performance for the 2014-15 financial year, and highlights departmental achievements.

This report is published in electronic PDF format, providing options for downloading the entire report or individual sections. Alternative document formats are available upon request from the Department of Local Government and Community Services. Before printing this document please consider the environment and avoid unnecessary paper usage.

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# OVERVIEW

## PART

# 1

Details the department's purpose, primary functions and objectives. Outlines the department's clients and stakeholders as well as some key highlights during the 2014-15 financial year.



# OVERVIEW

Our primary role is to build stronger regions and communities through effective local government; to deliver and coordinate critical and essential infrastructure projects and services to remote communities; and provide interpreting and translating services to support members of our community who speak a language other than English.

We are responsible for delivering an improved remote engagement model aimed at helping Aboriginal people and their communities realise their economic and social aspirations, including through the Community Champions Program. We are responsible for promoting safety, equality and participation of women in the Territory, and improving Northern Territory men's policy and services.

The Department of Local Government and Community Services is structured around four key divisions: Language and Business Services; Local Government; Strategy and Community Development; and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

## Our people

We employ 600 people across the Northern Territory of which 48 per cent identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

## Our clients

Our Ministers

Government agencies

Non-government organisations

Department of Local Government and Community Services staff

Other government employees

Regional and municipal councils

## Our stakeholders

The Northern Territory community

The Australian Government

Other state and territory governments

## Overview

Details the department's purpose, primary functions and objectives. Outlines the department's clients and stakeholders as well as some key highlights during the 2014-15 financial year.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD

The Department of Local Government and Community Services has celebrated a number of achievements during the 2014-15 financial year and these are highlighted throughout this report.

With plenty of departmental changes, 2014-15 has been a tough, challenging, yet rewarding year.

While this annual report is for the single agency, the Department of Local Government and Community Services, we spent much of the year as two distinct agencies, the Department of Local Government and Regions, and the Department of Community Services. Following changes to the Administration Arrangements Order on 12 December 2014 the departments joined as one agency. This annual report provides details of activities of the stand-alone agencies and the combined agency for the financial year 2014-15.

Starting this financial year as recipients of shared corporate services provided by the Department of Housing after successful negotiations we established our own dedicated corporate services team that came into effect on 1 December 2014 to provide in-house support.

Another significant change within the department has been the establishment of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs that is responsible for driving Aboriginal policy reform to ensure policy issues are prioritised and coordinated across government.

The department continues to play a key role in the development of regional and remote Northern Territory, with responsibilities spanning municipal and essential services for homelands and outstations, essential services for 72 remote communities, remote infrastructure coordination, remote land tenure, local government for both municipal and regional councils, remote engagement and coordination, and Aboriginal interpreting services to improve communication for many Aboriginal residents living in remote areas.

The challenges in regional and remote Northern Territory are many and varied but the department does not shy away from any of these. For that I would like to thank and congratulate our staff who continually demonstrate their daily commitment to improving the lives of all Territorians.

I look forward to continuing to work with all staff, agencies and other stakeholders over the coming year.



Mike Chiodo  
Chief Executive

30 September, 2015



Some key achievements we are particularly proud of include:

- ABC radio news bulletins recorded and transmitted each weekday in two Aboriginal languages: Warlpiri (Central Australia) and Yolngu Matha (East Arnhem region)
- the launch of the First Circles Engagement Program in July 2014 in Alice Springs
- the department's response to the destructive cyclones Lam and Nathan
- the commencement of asbestos removal works that started in Ramingining in September 2014
- staff participation in the White Ribbon Accreditation Program, and the White Ribbon March through the streets of Darwin on 25 November 2014
- the establishment of 63 local authorities across the Northern Territory, to ensure a strong local voice for community residents.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Language and Business Services

- Delivered 34 242 hours of Aboriginal interpreting, a 15 per cent increase compared to 2013-14.
- The Interpreting and Translating Service NT delivered 5200 hours of interpreting. The top two languages were Greek and Mandarin making up 14 per cent and 13 per cent of the total respectively.
- The Interpreting and Translating Service NT won an award recognising its language services to support African communities and refugees settle in Australia.

## Local Government

- Initiated the review of the *Cemeteries Act*.
- *The Darwin Rates Amendment Act 2014* was passed during the November 2014 NT Legislative Assembly Sittings. The amendments, among other things, changed the name of the legislation to the *Northern Territory Rates Act* and the Northern Territory Rates Regulations.
- A local authorities review across all regional councils found that in their first six months of operation, 63 Local Authorities had been established and were delivering on their objectives to deliver a stronger local voice and greater accountability for service delivery
- Working to develop a Northern Territory Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy to better coordinate the way that government engages with remote leaders and governance groups, to reduce the burden of consultation currently faced by remote community leaders; up-skill public servants who engage with remote residents, to improve outcomes from consultation and engagement activity; and better track and coordinate responses to issues and priorities raised by remote community residents

## Office of Aboriginal Affairs

- The Office of Aboriginal Affairs was established in May 2015. Based in Alice Springs the office is managed by an Executive Director and project and policy staff responsible for delivering key outcomes.
- First Circles Engagement was launched in Alice Springs on 2 July 2014. A total of 103 nominations comprising 49 women and 54 men were received. Thirty people were selected as members of the new leadership program.
- The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is partnering with the Department of Business to implement the Remote Contracting Policy to set employment and business development targets, implement new contract planning requirements, and provide professional services support to local Indigenous businesses.

Aboriginal interpreters broadcast daily news bulletins in two Aboriginal Languages (Warlpiri and Yolgnu Matha) on a 12-month trial with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.





## Strategy and Community Development

- Jointly funded by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments Maningrida and Galiwin'ku's sewerage systems have been upgraded. New water storage units have been installed at Yirrkala and Numbulwar.
- The department is leading whole-of-government coordination of land tenure in 73 remote communities. Five have entered into long-term leases, pursuant to section 19A of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. Infrastructure subleases have also been secured in those five communities. Of the remaining 68 communities 58 are either secured or agreed and in progress of finalisation. The remaining ten communities are still in negotiations.
- Cadastral survey plans have been drafted and lodged with the Office of the Surveyor General for 48 of the 49 identified communities. The remaining community has had the plans prepared that will be lodged with the Office of the Surveyor General shortly.
- The Policy Framework for Northern Territory Women 2015-2020 was released on 10 April 2015. The framework was developed in consultation with Northern Territory women and community organisations and has four key focus areas for action: women's safety, women's health and wellbeing, economic security; and leadership and participation.
- Three scholarships supporting Territory women were awarded totalling \$20 200 for one higher education student and two vocational students at Charles Darwin University.
- Grants totalling \$79 139 were awarded to 31 organisations to support various initiatives advancing Northern Territory women.
- The inaugural Action Against Domestic Violence Award was presented to Nightcliff Football Club on 27 March 2015 at the NT Sports Awards for actively raising awareness about domestic and family violence prevention.

Second Action Plan launch, September 2014.



Director of the Office of Women's Policy, Suzanne Everingham, at the launch



# REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The department prioritises its efforts on continually improving its regional focus to provide greater support to regional and remote local government councils, non-government organisations, outstation and homeland service providers. We work with providers and residents to improve community services, governance, leadership, and community engagement. The department's regional teams are essential to ensure people living in regional and remote areas have a strong voice in services they receive.

- Established the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in Alice Springs.
- Ran two professional development workshops for First Circle Engagement members in Alice Springs.
- Provided much needed support to clean up and rebuild communities affected by tropical cyclones Lam and Nathan throughout East Arnhem.
- Jointly funded by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments Galiwin'ku's sewerage system has been upgraded.
- New water storage unit installed at Yirrkalā.
- Jointly funded by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments Maningrida's sewerage system has been upgraded.
- Provided funding to build public toilets at Gunbalanya and Warruwi.
- Provided funding to replace swimming pool filters and help with school attendance at Wurrumiyanga.
- In conjunction with the Department of Education funded a basketball/ multi-sports court at Pigeon Hole.
- New water storage unit installed at Numbulwar.
- Provided \$100 000 to the Barkly Regional Council to accommodate the Tennant Creek Local Authority.
- Supplemented the Regional Development Australia Funds with a grant of \$250 000 for upgrading Purkiss Park in Tennant Creek
- The Aboriginal Interpreter Service provided almost 4000 hours of interpreting to Bush Courts throughout remote parts of the Northern Territory, including 475 hours at Alyangula, 500 hours at Maningrida, 470 hours at Nhulunbuy, 470 hours at Tennant Creek and more than 790 hours at Wadey.

Delivering our services requires plenty of bush travel.



Supporting the cyclone clean up in East Arnhem



Representatives from Macdonnell and Central Desert Regional Councils, DLGCS & CDU.





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015-16

## Language Services

- Continue to build on the quality of interpreters through focused personal development and formal accredited training.
- Focus on recruitment and training of new interpreters, particularly where there are shortages in languages, Aboriginal and ethnic.
- Focus on identifying strategies to alleviate legal and community pressures on interpreters when carrying out their work.
- Continue to provide social and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people across the Northern Territory and in the APY and Ngaanyatjarra lands.

## Local Government

- Support the local government sector to strengthen sustainable delivery of services and build capable workforces.
- Develop local authorities to become the main point of engagement for government in remote communities.
- Improving greater self-management and support to the local government sector itself via a continuing service level agreement with the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.

## Office of Aboriginal Affairs

- Strengthen regional capacity through supporting the Remote Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy.
- Lead whole-of-government approach to the coordination of Aboriginal policies and programs to drive economic and social development.
- Implement the Community Champions Program across the 13 communities.

Continue to deliver the Aboriginal news with the ABC for a further 12 months and include an additional language to expand the coverage of news to more remote Aboriginal communities.



Further develop the leadership capacity of First Circles Engagement Program members.



## Strategy and Community Development

- Improve access to community information by reducing duplication across governments and providing the tools to help government identify economic opportunities and community issues in one central location.
- Obtain accreditation as a White Ribbon organisation.
- Improve regional development outcomes through infrastructure assessment of occupied and unoccupied homelands and outstations.
- Support reliable municipal and essential services for homelands and outstations.
- Replace Numbulwar's water storage and Angurugu's sewerage reticulation.
- A new Conversations Worth Having program will be delivered in 2015-16.
- Address the safety of women in society through domestic violence prevention, incorporating the comprehensive rollout of the Domestic Violence Action Plan (DVAP) across the Northern Territory.
- Engage across government and with Northern Territory women to implement and progress initiatives agreed to under the Policy Framework for Northern Territory Women 2015-2020.

Provide grants and scholarships to improve opportunities for women's advancement and support engagement and participation of women and girls across the Northern Territory.



Maximise regional development through the provision of essential services infrastructure in remote communities, town camps, outstations and homelands.



Continue asbestos removal and remediation works in up to 62 communities.



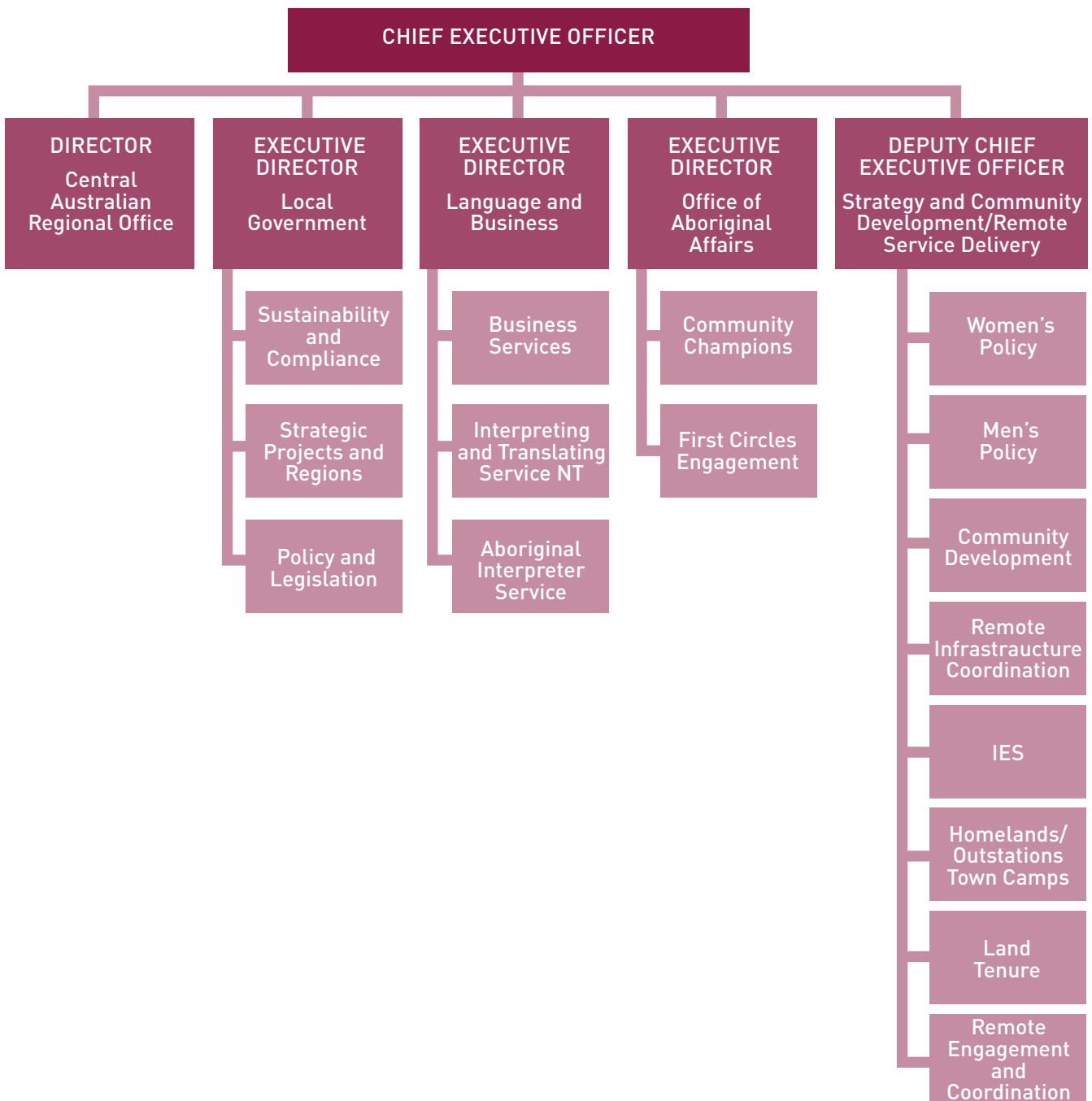
## Business Services

- Implement a controlled self-assessment risk management tool throughout the department to manage the agency risk profile.
- Implement new travel booking arrangements consistent with the whole-of-government contracted provider model.
- The department has established workplace health and safety policies and procedures on its intranet. The focus for 2015-16 will be to review that content to ensure it remains current and easily accessible.

Provide training and professional development in new simplified recruitment processes.



## Organisational structure



# OUR PERFORMANCE

## PART

# 2

Outlines  
performance and  
outputs against  
Budget Paper No.3  
during the 2014-15  
financial year.



# WHOLE OF AGENCY CYCLONE RESPONSE

During the months of February and March 2015 much of Arnhem Land was devastated by tropical cyclones Lam and Nathan. Along with many other government agencies the department swung into action providing much needed support to clean up and rebuild affected communities. The department's cross-agency response demonstrated our ability to work effectively as a team.

Service delivery centres at Galiwin'ku, Ramingining and Milingimbi experienced significant damage, residents were displaced, and a large number of trees were uprooted damaging homes, schools, businesses and other infrastructure. Thankfully, no fatalities or serious injuries were caused by the tropical cyclones.

Department of Local Government and Community Service staff helped on the ground, as well as in the recovery control centres. Our Nhulunbuy office with support from Darwin staff played a pivotal role immediately after both cyclones mobilising teams to visit homelands and undertake condition assessments making personal contact with many residents and service providers to keep them informed of our response.

East Arnhem Regional Council was first to respond clearing access to houses, roads and essential services. The council continued to support ground crew through the recovery process clearing fallen trees and spraying for mosquitoes, all while carrying out their normal municipal duties.

With road access blocked by fallen trees conditions on the ground were difficult. Access to most homelands was by aircraft only which often meant a long hot walk from the airfield. The department lead the development of a cross-government repatriation plan to enable people to return home safely. The Aboriginal Interpreter Service helped communicate important messages in Yolgnu Matha regarding food, safety, drinking water precautions, services residents could access, along with warnings about asbestos, mosquitos and melioidosis.

During the recovery phase local authorities in Galiwin'ku, Ramingining and Milingimbi met on a weekly basis providing yet another great example of how local authorities provide a voice for the local people.





# PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Department of Local Government and Community services is proudly committed to making a difference to people's lives through its initiatives and programs. The department works to build stronger regions and communities through effective local government, and the delivery and coordination of critical remote essential infrastructure projects and services.

It supports the multicultural society of the Northern Territory providing meaningful access and support, through its interpreting and translating services. And, is responsible for the delivery of an improved remote engagement model, which includes the Community Champions Program, aimed at helping Aboriginal people and communities realise their economic and social aspirations.

The department is also responsible for the promotion of safety, equality and participation of women in the Territory, and improving coordination of policy and services for Territory men.

The department is committed to delivering a responsive public service with a focus on respect, trust and value of our people. We aim to communicate effectively with all our stakeholders through collaborative and consultative approaches to our business. We believe it is important to make informed, accountable decisions and we aim to be strategic, professional and impartial, and value ethics among our staff, clients and stakeholders.

To demonstrate these values, we engage with our stakeholders, strive for continuous improvement, respond to the needs of our clients and stakeholders, respect each other and our community, work collaboratively, encourage diversity and take responsibility for our actions.

The department's 2014-15 budget totalled over \$260 million with a full-time equivalent staff of 222 consisting of 600 people who were employed on a full-time, part-time and casual basis.





## LANGUAGE SERVICES

Language Services is within the Language and Business Services Division of the department and is reported here separately to the Business Services outputs.

Language Services consists of the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and the Interpreting and Translating Service of the Northern Territory. It aims to improve access to appropriate services for remote Territorians and people who do not speak English as their first language.

### Aboriginal Interpreter Service

Since its inception in 2000 the Aboriginal Interpreter Service has continued to grow and deliver interpreting services for non-English speaking Aboriginal Territorians, particularly in the areas of health, legal, education and social services.

The service currently employs 56 ongoing staff located in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Wurrumiyanga, Wadeye and Groote Eylandt. It also currently employs 239 Aboriginal interpreters on casual contracts in remote communities and towns across the Northern Territory.

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service delivers training to new recruits through inductions, and ongoing professional development and mentoring, including legal and health interpreting courses and formal mentoring programs. It is currently delivering the Diploma of Interpreting to fourteen students in partnership with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and provides professional development aimed at enabling interpreters to obtain their national accreditation through the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI).

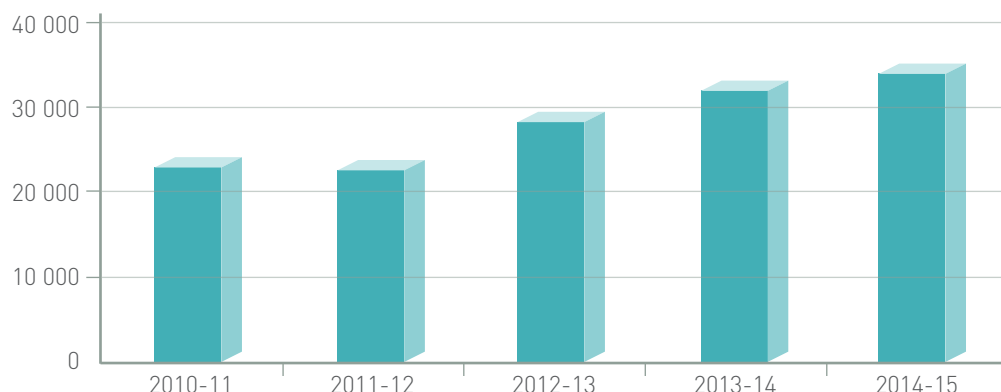
## Performance highlights

- A total of **34 242 hours of interpreting** during this report period.
- **Developed a plain English legal dictionary** with North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA), and the Aboriginal Resource and Development Service (ARDS). It's available in hard copy and electronic format.
- Completed **670 hours of recording time across 337 jobs**, projects included film and radio advertisements and apps for download. Major projects included Police caution recordings and the Community Corrections language resources project.
- Took part in a **12-month trial to broadcast daily news bulletins on the ABC radio in two Aboriginal Languages** (Warlpiri and Yolgnu Matha).
- A total of **3490 hours of training delivered to Aboriginal interpreters** in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.



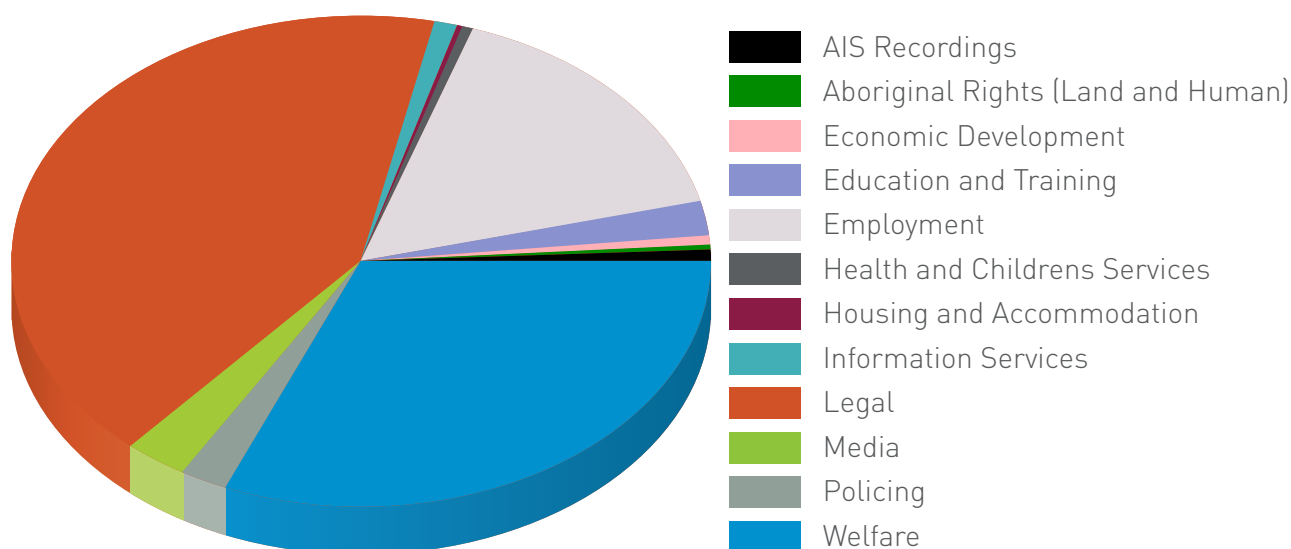
The number of interpreting hours continues to increase annually.

#### Aboriginal Interpreter Service - Hours of interpreting for past 5 years



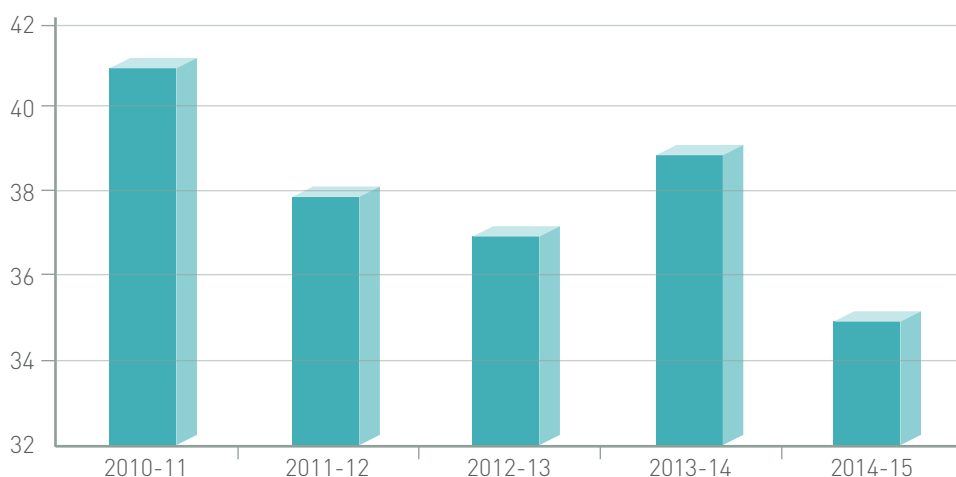
The use of Aboriginal interpreters remains focused on the legal, welfare (Centrelink) and health sectors, which collectively account for over 80% of all Aboriginal interpreting.

#### Interpreting hours by client sector



There has been a decline in the number of languages being accessed; more people are requesting the most common Aboriginal languages.

#### Number of languages interpreted



## Interpreting and Translating Service of the Northern Territory

The Interpreting and Translating Service NT works with government and non-government agencies to help them communicate with Territorians who speak languages other than English through face-to-face interpreting and translating of migrant and refugee languages. They provide guidance and advice on appropriate language selection, dialects and language level. With more than 150 locally recruited interpreters across 59 ethnic languages the demand continues to grow.

The Interpreting and Translating Service encourages and supports interpreters to attain formal accreditation in their chosen languages to build on the professionalism of interpreters and provide opportunity for the department to expand interpreting services. The service works with non-government community organisations to identify emerging language groups and provides the necessary language support for those looking to settle in the Northern Territory.

### Language Services Financial Performance

Output Group/Output	2013-14 Actual \$000	2014-15 Budget \$000	2014-15 Actual \$000
Language Services	10 233	9 099	9 454

### Key Language Services Financial Variations

- The Language Services output funding decrease in 2014-15 is mainly due to small reductions in the level of Australian Government funding to the Aboriginal Interpreter Service.

## Performance highlights

- **Won the Recognition of Community Support Award** in December 2014.
- **Targeted recruitment efforts to meet growing demand of emerging languages** such as Swahili, Somali, Lingala, Hazaragi and Arabic to support newly arrived peoples from the Congo, Somalia, Iraq and Sudan.
- Provided **translating and interpreting support during the Banana Freckle Eradication Program and the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus response**.
- **Translated information** for the Department of Education's NT International Education and Training Strategy 2014-2024.

ITSNT interpreters in national dress.



### Language Services Performance by Numbers

Key Deliverables	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
<b>Aboriginal Interpreter Service</b>			
Bookings attended	5 403	5 500	<b>6147</b>
Registered interpreters	537	500	<b>240</b>
NAATI accredited interpreters	151	160	<b>139</b>
Languages covered	85	85	<b>86</b>
<b>Interpreting and Translating Service NT</b>			
Interpreting bookings attended	5 056	5 250	<b>4 200</b>
Translating assignments completed	1 251	1 300	<b>943</b>
Registered interpreters	205	200	<b>116</b>
Registered translators	186	200	<b>161</b>
Northern Territory NAATI accredited interpreters and translators	57	65	<b>83</b>
Languages covered in past 12 months	88	90	<b>67</b>

### Key Language Services Performance Variations

- On 31 December 2014 all Aboriginal Interpreter Service casual employment contracts ceased and new contracts have been progressively introduced as and when interpreters are employed to undertake jobs. There were 240 interpreters contracted by 30 June 2015.
- The difference between the budgeted 5250 Interpreting and Translating Service NT interpreter bookings and actual result of 4200 has resulted from reduced asylum seekers being in Darwin and requiring language services.
- The change in the number of Interpreting and Translating Service NT registered interpreters has resulted from an audit of registered interpreters that revealed a number of registered but inactive interpreters.
- The change in the number of Interpreting and Translating Service NT registered translators has resulted from an audit of registered translators that revealed a number of registered but inactive translators.

ITSNT won an award for services to the African community.



Aboriginal interpreters.



Interpreting in action.





## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Our Local Government division is responsible for the development and regulation of local government in the Northern Territory. Services provided to support and help improve local government performance and sustainability include:

- strategic advice and assessment of regional issues
- coordination of government support to councils
- policy and legislation
- monitoring and advice on service delivery, financial management and operational issues
- administration of grants to councils
- administration of local government legislative requirements.

The division is divided into three distinct business areas that manage Policy and Legislation; Sustainability and Compliance; and Strategic Projects and Regions.

### Legislation and Policy

The Policy and Legislation Unit is responsible for ensuring that there are relevant and effective governance frameworks for the councils established under the *Local Government Act*.

The Legislation and Policy Unit also administer legislation that is the department's responsibility under the Administrative Arrangements Order including: *Cemeteries Act*; *Crown Lands Act* (section 79); *Jabiru Town Development Act*; *Local Government Act* (except Chapter 8); *Local Government Grants Commission Act*; *Local Government (Katherine Rates) Act*; *Northern Territory Rates Act*; *Nudity Act*; *Pounds Act*; *Status of Darwin Act*; and *Status of Palmerston Act*.



### Performance highlights

- ***Cemeteries Act* under review** to consider issues including: types of cemeteries; responsibility for cemeteries across the Northern Territory including burial records; exclusive rights to a burial plot; contemporary burial practices; cremations; and burials at sea.
- ***Local Government Act* under review** to ensure legislation underpinning local government is working effectively for the benefit of local people and the sector generally.
- The amendments, among other things, changed the name of the legislation to the *Northern Territory Rates Act* and the Northern Territory Rates Regulations.

## Sustainability and Compliance

The Sustainability and Compliance Unit aims to improve sustainability of the local government sector, through the provision of grant funding, the transparent use of public money and compliance with legislative requirements. The unit implements strategies to provide support for continuous improvement in council management as well as a program of compliance activities to ensure effective governance, management and accountability.



## Performance highlights

- **Worked with local government representatives to develop a range of resources to help councils** comply with the *Local Government Act* and related policies; support best business practice; and address remedial actions raised in the 2012 Deloitte report.
- **Tiwi Island Regional Council placed under management** and elected members temporarily suspended due to strong evidence of systemic failures. Allan McGill was appointed as the official manager to run council business, investigate and report back on the matter. The Minister is considering the reported recommendations.
- Completed two compliance reviews during the year under a revised Compliance Review program which has a stronger focus on risk and business practice.
  - Managed the inaugural three year agreement with the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory titled 'Local Government Excellence in the Northern Territory, which delivered a range of support functions and capacity building of local councils to enhance the long term sustainability of the local government sector in the Territory.
  - Completed two compliance reviews during the year under a revised Compliance Review Program which has a stronger focus on risk and business practice.
- Successfully managed more than \$80 million in local government grants.

The department manages a range of local government grant programs, which were allocated in 2014-15 to 25 local government councils and other organisations.

Refer to Appendix 1 for a full list of grants administered by the department.

## Northern Territory Operational Subsidy

The Operational Subsidy is the main support offered to councils by the Northern Territory Government to help provide local government services in rural and remote areas of the Northern Territory. It is paid to the nine local government regional councils together with the Belyuen, Coomalie and Wagait councils. The subsidy is not available to the five municipal councils.

The 2014-15 NT Operational Subsidy payments totalled \$25.75 million. This money was paid to councils in quarterly instalments during 2014-15. In addition, there was a pre-payment of the 2015-16 NT Operational Subsidy allocation made to the West Daly Regional Council of \$690 090.

## Reserves and Other Organisations Grants

These grants are provided to organisations that provide local government-type services for the benefit of the community, such as Robbie Robbins Reserve and the Nhulunbuy Public Cemetery Trust. The approved grants for 2014-15 totalled \$666 828 and were fully paid in 2014-15.

## Special Purpose Grants

These grants are open to local governments and other incorporated organisations that provide local government-type services to improve community infrastructure and local government service delivery outcomes.

In this submission-based grants program, the department assesses applications and provides recommendations to the minister for consideration and approval. Funds are generally granted to projects that provide services and facilities that meet the community's needs and priorities.

In 2014-15, approximately \$3.14 million was paid to a total of 15 councils and organisations. In addition, the department paid a further amount of \$16 414 to the Central Desert Regional Council to allow them to hire portable flood lighting for the Yuendumu sports carnival.

## Family Safe Environment Fund

The Family Safe Environment Fund provides funding of \$250 000 per annum.

The program aims to provide a safe environment for park users and nearby residents by reducing antisocial behaviour, acts of vandalism and graffiti. Funding is granted for initiatives such as:

- improved park layout
- installation of CCTV cameras
- installation of additional lighting
- improving entrances, exits and signage.

For example, the Barkly Regional Council, purchased and installed CCTV and an alarm system for the new Tennant Creek swimming pool complex and football change rooms.

In 2014-15 the department paid the entire program funds of \$250 000 to eight councils as per the minister's approvals.

## Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) provides financial disaster relief and recovery assistance to local government bodies for repairs to community roads and other essential public assets. Local government bodies that provide resources for other community relief and recovery efforts in a natural disaster may also be eligible for reimbursement under NDRRA.

Assistance may be in the form of a grant or reimbursement to council for expenditure already incurred. Financial assistance must be in accordance with the NDRRA principles.

In 2014-15, the department paid approximately \$8.8 million for damage sustained as a result of four declared events or natural disasters. This funding enabled the councils to restore their local road networks, remove trees and repair damage caused by fallen trees.



## Closing the Gap Funding - Strengthening Local Authority

Funding to support regional councils establish, train and maintain their respective local authorities.

In 2014-15 the department paid the entire program funds of \$2 million to all nine regional councils.

## Local Authority Project Funding

Local Authority Project Funding commenced in 2014-15 to provide local authorities that have been established with some financial capacity to undertake priority projects within their respective communities.

The funding is provided to the regional councils along with advice as to how much is to be allocated to each of their respective local authorities.

Program funds total \$5 million and the methodology for their distribution was developed by the Northern Territory Grants Commission and endorsed by the minister.

A total of \$5 million was paid to the nine regional councils that will benefit 63 local authorities around the Northern Territory. Unspent project funding was rolled over to the 2015-16 financial year.

## Special Purpose Grant – Budget Assistance Funding

In 2013-14 the NT Government split the Victoria Daly Regional Council to form a new council, the West Daly Regional Council. The new council came into being in 2014-15 as well as the now reconstituted Victoria Daly Regional Council.

The Structural changes directly impacted on the councils' ability to generate own source funding and grant revenues. Once budgets were submitted it was decided that the department would provide some additional financial assistance over a two-year period to address the immediate diminished revenue issues and allow them time to adjust their expenditure.

In 2014-15, \$2.64 million was provided to the Victoria Daly Regional Council and \$1.14 million was provided to the West Daly Regional Council.

## Indigenous Employment Package

The Northern Territory Government has provided \$7.9 million per annum for the Indigenous Jobs Development Funding (IJDF) from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

The purpose of the IJDF is to allow regional councils including the Belyuen council the opportunity to receive a subsidy to employ Indigenous staff working in the area of local government service delivery (e.g. parks and gardens, sport and recreation, waste management, animal management, administration, library, civil works and other activities).

In 2014-15 the department paid the entire program funds of \$7.9 million to all nine regional councils and the Belyuen Community Government Council.

## Northern Territory Grants Commission

The Northern Territory Grants Commission is an independent statutory authority. Its role is to recommend the allocation of financial assistance grants to the Australian Government Minister for Local Government for approval. Full details of the Commission's activities and funding methodologies will be published in its annual report.

## Financial Assistance Grants

In 2014-15, the Financial Assistance Grant payments totalled \$33.2 million and were allocated to local government councils and paid in quarterly instalments during 2014-15. The grants are funded by the Australian Government and distributed in accordance with Northern Territory Grants Commission's recommendations.

There are two funding pools: general purpose funding to support councils deliver core local government services; and local roads grants to support maintenance and repair of roads managed by local government, including the road network managed by the Local Government Association of the NT.



## Strategic Projects and Regions

The Strategic Projects and Regions team is committed to delivering engaged and supported regional government, with a focus on supporting the 63 local authorities that have been established by regional councils.

Regional Councils have established 63 local authorities in 63 remote communities within the nine regional councils to discuss a range of issues that include planning, budgeting, local employment and the monitoring of service delivery within their respective communities.

## Performance highlights

- **Managed a once only payment of \$2 million** to provide regional councils direct funding to strengthen their local authorities, and **\$5 million ongoing for local priority projects**. A number of positive initiatives have been implemented including the purchase of a mobile generator and portable light system to be used for community events and during extended power outages.
- **Supported the start-up** of the new West Daly Regional Council

### Local Authorities Members

Regional Council	No of Local Authorities	Member of Local Authority		
		Male	Female	Total
Barkly	7	42	18	60
Central Desert	9	47	23	70
East Arnhem	9	66	43	109
MacDonnell	13	43	55	98
Roper Gulf	10	36	49	85
Tiwi Islands	3	24	17	41
Victoria Daly	5	28	23	51
West Arnhem	4	33	15	48
West Daly	3	31	10	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>603</b>

Local authorities as at 30 June 2015 - of the 603 total local authority members, 42 per cent (253) were female and 58 per cent (350) were male.

### Local Government Financial Performance

Output Group/Output	2013-14 Actual \$000	2014-15 Budget \$000	2014-15 Actual \$000
<b>Local Government and Regions</b>	<b>60 764</b>	<b>92 316</b>	<b>100 465</b>
Policy and Legislation	749	3 473	3 852
Sustainability and Compliance	34 907	41 349	50 074
Strategic Projects and Regions	25 107	47 494	46 539

### Key Local Government Financial Variations

- The increase in the 2014-15 Budget for the Local Government and Regions Output Group, when compared to the 2013-14 Actual, is mainly due to:
  - The revised timing of Australian Government funding and earlier than expected payment of grants to shire councils in 2012-13.
  - Additional funding in the 2014-15 Budget to address the financial sustainability of regional councils.
  - Carried-forward funds approved to be spent in 2014-15 for one-off legal expenses, the Matching Jobs Package and the West Daly Council establishment.
  - Increased entitlement of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant in 2014-15 Budget.
- The increase in the 2014-15 Actual for the Local Government and Regions Output Group, when compared to the 2014-15 Budget, is mainly due to the payment of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

#### Local Government Performance by Numbers

Key Deliverables	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
Percentage of key stakeholders satisfied with advice and services provided by the department	90%	> 70%	<b>90%</b>
Percentage of grants and subsidies completed and acquitted back to the department according to funding agreements	85%	> 80%	<b>86%</b>
Funds granted under the Indigenous Matching Jobs program	\$8.3M	\$7.9M	<b>\$7.9M</b>
Percentage of local authorities established and fully operational	n/a	100%	<b>97%</b>

New playground constructed in the Sand Hills area, Ntaria.



## OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

The new Office of Aboriginal Affairs is headquartered in Alice Springs and has been established with a particular focus on economic development and job creation in remote and regional areas. The office will build the capacity of Aboriginal communities to help deliver frontline services locally, taking full advantage of business and job opportunities along the way, while also achieving better coordination of Indigenous policy across the Territory.

The office will be managed by an Executive Director, who is based in the Alice Springs headquarters, with a range of project and policy staff to deliver the key outcomes for government. The Community Champions Program will be supported by 13 Aboriginal employees in the roles of community champion liaison and development officers who will be at the front line of engagement working with Chief Executive Officers and the communities they are championing. There will be support staff located in Darwin and it is possible that a number of the liaison and development officers will be located in regional offices. The Community Champions Program is designed to support locally led economic projects in remote communities.

The Department of Local Government and Community Services is currently developing an overarching Aboriginal Affairs Strategy in conjunction with the Department of Chief Minister and other agencies. The Aboriginal Affairs Strategy will capture existing and planned government policy priorities to support government engagement with communities in realising their economic and social aspirations. Economic development and job creation are central to the Aboriginal Affairs Strategy and will be supported by other activities under the four strategic areas of framing the future. The Aboriginal Affairs Strategy is supported by an internal strategic targets framework that will outline targets and reporting obligations to enable government to monitor its progress and report to the public.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs also oversees the First Circles Engagement Program.

The new Office of Aboriginal Affairs will focus on economic development and job creation in remote and regional areas and will incorporate the Community Champions Program.





## ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Economic development and job creation are central to the Aboriginal Affairs Strategy and will be supported by other activities under the four strategic areas of Framing the Future.

An internal strategic targets framework that will outline targets and reporting obligations to enable government to monitor its progress and report to the public supports the Aboriginal Affairs Strategy.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs was established in the later part of the 2014-15 financial year with the official office opening scheduled for 2015-16. The majority of activity for the current year has been aimed at recruitment of staff and identifying suitable office space.

## Performance highlights

- Partnering with the Department of Business to implement the Remote Contracting Policy to set employment and business development targets, implement new contract planning requirements, and provide professional services support to local Indigenous businesses. Targets include employment support for **2000 private sector Indigenous Jobs; business development; and 70 per cent of remote area tenders being awarded to Indigenous enterprises/ organisations by 2017.**

## ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT

Moving away from traditional representation and elder consultation models the department is managing the First Circles Engagement Program focusing on future Indigenous leaders. Members comprise a mix of 30 Indigenous men and women who will develop leadership skills and be actively involved in decision-making on Indigenous issues.

First Circles Engagement was launched on 2 July 2014 in Alice Springs where there was a call for nominations. The department received 103 nominations comprising 49 women and 54 men. The selection of members was finalised with an announcement made in December 2014 about the 30 inaugural members.

Two workshops were held for inaugural members in December 2014. One workshop was held in Darwin for the northern members and another was held in Alice Springs for the Central Australia members. Two further First Circles workshops, in Darwin and in Alice Springs, were held in March and April 2015 followed by a meeting with Cabinet in May 2014.

## Performance highlights

- Members of the First Circles Engagement Program met with Northern Territory Cabinet members in May 2015.

## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

The Community Champions Program was trialled in early 2014-15. With the establishment of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs it was decided to provide additional program resources and focus. There is a three-year commitment to implement the program; with funding for a \$3.25 million per annum grant program to support the work of the community champions.

### Office of Aboriginal Affairs Financial Performance

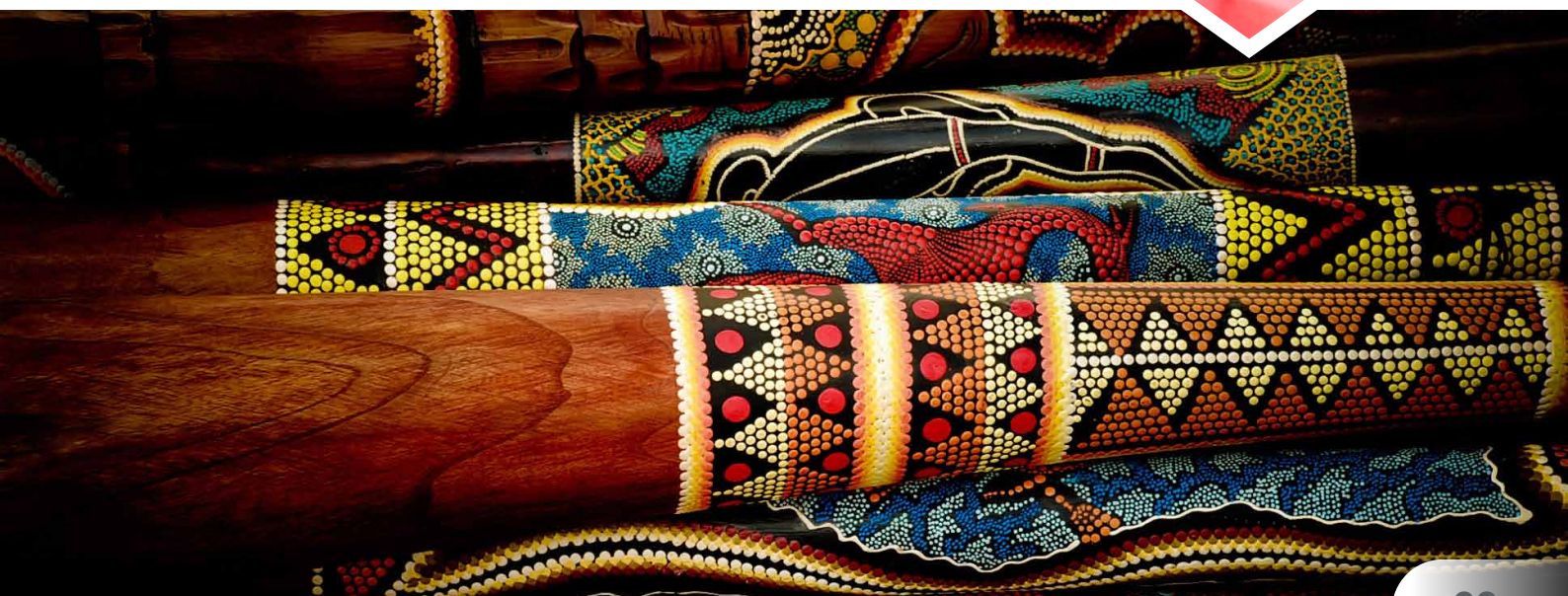
	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
<b>Output Group/Output</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>\$000</b>
<b>Office of Aboriginal Affairs</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2 999</b>	<b>2 509</b>
Office of Aboriginal Affairs	0	1 209	553
Aboriginal Advancement	77	800	1 117
Community Champions	0	990	839

### Office of Aboriginal Affairs Performance by Numbers

<b>Key Deliverables</b>	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
Number of First Circles meetings supported	N/A	4	5

## Performance highlights

- Driving the Community Champions Program to **ensure local voices are heard** at the highest level of government in 13 identified communities or regions. Each community will be assigned a Chief Executive and an Indigenous community champion/development officer to identify priority projects that will be funded by the Community Champions Grants Program.



# STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Strategy and Community Development Division has a broad responsibility incorporating Indigenous Essential Services; Remote Infrastructure Coordination; Homelands, Outstations and Town Camps; Community Development; and Women's and Men's Policy.

## Indigenous Essential Services

The role of the Indigenous Essential Services Unit is to coordinate funding and provide strategic planning and policy advice for the delivery of electricity, water and sewerage services to 72 remote Indigenous communities. Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Power and Water Corporation, is engaged to deliver services on a purchaser provider basis.

## Performance highlights

- A total of **26 812 square metres of asbestos removed** from public owned assets in 23 communities.
- **Ninety-two local Indigenous participants have been trained in the removal of non-friable asbestos**, and **77 of these have been employed in asbestos removal** and remediation works in their communities.
- **Working on a \$1.65 million dollar project** with West Arnhem Regional Council, Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Energy Resources of Australia and the Power Water Corporation (PWC) **to upgrade critical essential services infrastructure in Jabiru**. Completed works include major electrical, water supply upgrades including replacement of borefield switchboards, water main valves, and flow meters.
- **Launched revised Indigenous Community Engineering Guidelines** (ICEG 2014) developed in consultation with industry stakeholders to replace outdated guidelines.
- A total of **72 essential services operators were employed** under contractual arrangements with Power and Water Corporations, 18 of these employees are Indigenous. Twenty Aboriginal trainees received accredited essential services operations training.
- **Upgraded Maningrida's sewerage system** at a cost of \$3 million. Completed works include the extension of the treated sewerage effluent outfall pipe, a new sewerage pond, and new sewerage main.
- **Upgraded Galiwin'ku's sewerage system**; a jointly funded \$4.9 million works program with the Australian Government, including a new gravity sewer main, a new sewer rising main, and upgrade of the existing sewer pump station.
- **Two new stainless steel water tanks totalling \$1.6 million installed at Yirrkala** increasing water storage capacity from 630 kilolitres to 1520 kilolitres.



# ILPEYE ILPEYE SUBDIVISION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments are jointly developing the Ilpeye Ilpeye Town Camp to improve infrastructure services and provide options for freehold titles to serviced lots of land.

A total of \$10.63 million in funding has been made available by the Australian Government to construct a subdivision and upgrade existing essential services infrastructure. On project completion, Ilpeye Ilpeye Town Camp will be transformed into an urban subdivision similar to that of any other suburb in a major town.

As project director the department contracted local construction company Probuild NT Pty Ltd a \$6.2 million tender to undertake subdivision and infrastructure upgrade works to the town camp including:

- underground power
- new water and sewerage recalculation
- new sealed roads and drainage
- social amenities.

The contract included requirements for Indigenous participation to ensure opportunities for local Indigenous people. On average 20 per cent of on site employees are Indigenous.

Once subdivision works are complete, the Ilpeye Ilpeye Aboriginal Corporation will have the option of freehold titles to the serviced lots of land, which will be individually titled and available for either private construction or sale. Ilpeye Ilpeye residents will benefit from private home ownership opportunities with a range of services common to all Alice Springs residents such as postal services, a formal bus stop area, and community-consulted street names.



## Remote Infrastructure Coordination

We deliver using a place-based approach to whole-of-government coordination and support for planning and delivery of infrastructure and capital works in remote communities. The department is leading whole-of-government coordination and negotiation of land tenure arrangements to underpin new infrastructure investment, support economic development and home ownership in remote communities. The Remote Infrastructure Coordination team delivers on a number of fronts to drive this coordinated approach to infrastructure development.

- **Housing Leases** – remote public housing is secured through the grant of a lease pursuant to section 19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* or where there is a township lease in place a sublease is granted by the Executive Director Township Leasing which is a statutory body established by the Australian Government for the purpose of holding the township leases. Where a community is not located on Aboriginal land or subject to a township lease, a sublease is granted from the relevant land holding body. There are currently no lease payments attached to remote public housing leases.
- **Infrastructure Leases** – government infrastructure such as schools, health clinics, police stations and power water facilities are also secured through the grant of a lease.
- **Township Leases** – a township lease is secured through the grant of a lease over a town area pursuant to section 19A of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. These leases are held by the Executive Director Township Leasing which is a statutory body established by the Australian Government for the purpose of holding the township leases.
- **Cadastral Surveys** – Cadastral Surveys support the requirements under the *Planning Act* to allow leases to be granted for a period in excess of 12 years. The Cadastral Surveys are a vital component for establishing a property market in remote communities that can help grow prosperity for Aboriginal people by transforming remote communities into places that are properly planned and designed. The Cadastral Surveys will also support home ownership and other community development that requires leases for a term in excess of 12 years.

## Performance highlights

- Of the 72 major communities serviced, **five have entered into long term leases; five infrastructure subleases have been secured; and 58 leases are either secured or agreed** and in progress of finalisation. The remaining 10 communities are still in negotiations.
- Of the **104 communities requiring remote public housing leases** 31 of these are town camps of which 27 have been secured and the remaining four town camps are pending further discussions. Of the remaining 73 communities 63 are either secured or agreed and in progress of finalisation with a remaining 10 communities under consideration.
- **Forty-eight communities have survey plans drafted and lodged with the Office of the Surveyor General.** The remaining community has had the plans prepared and are to be lodged with the Office of the Surveyor General.



## Homelands, Outstations and Town Camps

The Northern Territory Government is committed to improving services and living conditions on homelands. This requires the joint efforts of governments, landholders and residents. We all share responsibility for the future of homelands and work together to achieve the best possible results for homelands.

The Homelands, Outstations and Town Camps Unit leads whole-of-government coordination and development of a longterm strategic framework to improve service delivery in homelands. It funds local service providers for the provision of municipal and essential services, and home maintenance services to homelands and town camps throughout the Territory.

The **Municipal and Essential Services (MES) Special Purpose Grant** program is a component of Australian Government funded Municipal and Essential Service program, with a total pool of \$4 million allocated per annum. The funding program aims to address high capital cost projects within MES service delivery to Homelands.

The program is application driven and applications are assessed on the basis of:

- Program priority area (water, power, sewerage etc).
- Perceived program utilisation (for mobile assets).
- Sustainability (ongoing maintenance costs, running costs, replacement costs).
- Value for money (value assessment).

The **Homelands Extra Allowance** (HEA) provides \$5200 (GST exclusive) to each eligible applicant on an approved homeland for repairs and maintenance to their dwelling. Service providers help residents submit an application and agree to the works that can be undertaken. Program guidelines were reviewed in February 2015 with positive feedback from both service providers and residents resulting in a significant increase of program applications.



## Performance highlights

- A newly constructed bore and 18km pipeline to provide **consistent water supply to Alyuen Outstation** online October 2014.
- **One hundred and fifty-two Municipal and Essential Services Special Purpose Grant projects were funded** including upgrading water and power supply systems, installing new rubbish tips and funding of road works. The Irrerlirre power station was upgraded at a cost of \$60 000 directly benefiting 100 residents; water mains and pipe lines at Lilla were upgraded at a cost of \$100 000 addressing serious water supply issues.
- **The total number of Home Extra Allowance applications funded to date is 1142** for 827 dwellings, across 274 homelands. Improvements have included refurbished kitchens, bathrooms, covered verandahs, carports, security and concreting. As at 30 June 2015 a further 445 applications had been received for funding in the new financial year.



## Remote Engagement and Coordination

The department leads community engagement, community development and service delivery coordination activities for remote areas, including whole-of-government coordination of the Stronger Futures National Partnership Agreement.

The department will commence a process of redesigning BushTel in July 2015, a public remote community information website to improve user experience and ensure information is maintained and reliable. It aims to reduce duplication across governments and provide tools to help government identify economic opportunities and community issues in one central location. Once complete both government and non-government organisations will be able to develop their understanding of current services and limitations to delivering services to remote communities in the Northern Territory.

### Performance by Numbers

Key Deliverables	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
Monitor Stronger Futures implementation plans	9	9	9

## Performance highlights

- **Lead agency responsible for negotiating the Remote Australia Strategies Implementation Plan** for the Stronger Futures National Partnership Agreement on behalf of the Northern Territory Government.
- The department **funded Charles Darwin University to deliver a two year, \$1.1 million Indigenous Governance and Leadership Development Project** in Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Ntaria, Ramingining and Wurrumiyanga, with an emphasis on 'both ways' learning through a better understanding of Aboriginal and Western governance systems.



The Ramingining Q and A session.

## Women's Policy

The Office of Women's Policy aims to deliver improved social, economic and cultural outcomes through the implementation of gender specific policies and services. The Office provides direct policy advice to the Minister for Women's Policy on issues affecting women in the Northern Territory.

Through close working relationships across government and directly with Northern Territory women and organisations the unit aims to advance the social, political, economic and civil status of women in the Northern Territory.

The Office of Women's Policy works with Australian, state and territory governments to implement the Second Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (2010-2022) through participation on the Executive Implementation Group.

The office is a member of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and progresses activities that increase the evidence-base in the area of domestic violence through participation in targeted working groups.

The Office of Women's Policy is a member of Our Watch and as such is directly involved in the development of a National Framework for Violence Prevention.

## Performance highlights

- **Released the Policy Framework for Northern Territory Women 2015-2020** setting clear direction for the Northern Territory Government in the advancement of women in the Northern Territory. The framework has four key focus areas for action to improve gender equality outcomes and identifies women's safety as a key focus area for action.
- Supporting **the implementation of the Northern Territory Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy** – Safety is Everyone's Right.
- A total of **40 International Women's Day events** across the Northern Territory were registered with the Office of Women's Policy.
- **Grants and scholarships to improve opportunities** and outcomes for Northern Territory women and girls were provided in 2014-15. Total annual grant pool of \$20 175 for International Women's Day events was distributed to 15 organisations. \$20 200 was distributed in support of women's scholarship program for higher education and vocational education and training students. In 2014-15 we provided 16 Women's Advancement Grants totalling \$58 964 to Territory organisations.
- **Five 'A Conversation Worth Having' events held** across Alice Springs and Darwin where women speakers share their experiences and facilitate debate about a broad range of issues.
- **Five 'Smashing the Glass Ceiling' events held** across Alice Springs and Darwin providing successful public servants as lunch time speakers to share their stories and encourage others to aspire to their full potential.





## Men's Policy

The Men's Policy Unit works to make sure that all men are considered fully when developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Northern Territory Government policy.

It was established in December 2014 and recognises the significance and importance of adequately supporting men of all ages throughout the Territory, with the unit setting the development of a policy framework for advancing the social and emotional wellbeing of men in the Northern Territory, consistent with local Territory circumstances and contexts.

The unit is working with service providers, developing targeted violence primary prevention programs in communities where they are needed. A key reason for developing this community-based, family violence primary prevention approach is to build the social capacity within communities so community members play an active role in driving community safety.

It is also working closely with national and Territory organisations to develop primary prevention strategies that support young people to better manage the complexities of adolescence and the many issues encountered on the journey to adulthood.

## Performance highlights

- The **Indigenous Male Advisory Council met four times**. It advises on significant issues identified as affecting Indigenous males in the NT. The council helps to ensure the Northern Territory Government is responsive, and supports services and policy.
- The **inaugural Action Against Domestic Violence Award was presented to Nightcliff Football Club** on 27 March 2015 at the NT Sports Awards for actively raising awareness about domestic and family violence prevention.
- **Working closely with key service providers and frontline agencies to identify how they may best deliver targeted family violence prevention programs** in communities where needed, while at the same time creating a climate whereby the programs are in first languages, truly community-originating, and local members play an active role.
- Wadeye and Mutijulu **Youth Family Violence Programs comprise youth artistic expression** activities to allow kids to start talking about how family violence impacts on their lives.
- Working with the Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women's Shelter Inc Men's Service to develop **new resources to tackle domestic and family violence** across Darwin, Palmerston and selected Town Camps.
- **Funded a public bus wrap** to support CatholicCare NT's NO MORE to family violence campaign.





# DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES WHITE RIBBON WORKPLACE ACCREDITATION

The Department of Local Government and Community Services negotiated with the White Ribbon Foundation to be accepted to the White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation (Workplace Accreditation) Program. This will place the department alongside the NT Police as the second NT Government department to achieve this highly distinguished, nationally recognised official approval from White Ribbon Australia.

Workplace accreditation seeks to recognise and accredit workplaces that are taking active steps to stop violence against women. Workplace accreditation aims to inspire workplaces to build on existing initiatives that address respectful relationships by incorporating primary prevention and early intervention approaches that drive more holistic culture change.

White Ribbon Australia is the only national, male led campaign to end men's violence against women and the organisation recognises the role of workplaces to:

- influence individual and group behaviours
- challenge attitudes that allow violence to occur
- model equitable and respectful gender relations
- recognise the rights of all employees to be free from violence.

The program aims to inspire workplaces to build on existing initiatives that address respectful relationships and gender equity by incorporating primary prevention and early intervention approaches to drive culture change. This is done by:

- increasing staff knowledge and skills
- enhancing workplace response capacity
- changing attitudes and behaviours that allow men's violence against women to occur.

Employee training is required, as is the revisiting of policies and procedures to ensure organisations have an effective approach to workplace responses to violence against women. An orientation workshop was held in mid-August 2014 followed by the implementation period of 12 to 18 months.

On Tuesday 25 November NT Police held their annual White Ribbon Day March starting at the Darwin Police Station, Knuckey Street and marching to Raintree Park where the NT Police hosted a community barbeque. Staff from a range of business areas within the department participated in the march.

Domestic and family violence and sexual abuse against women remains a significant issue across the Northern Territory and is an issue that the department remains absolutely committed to preventing. As a department we will continue to lead the way in domestic and family violence awareness and prevention strategies and we look forward to setting the standard across government in preventing violence against women.



The Department has actively encouraged other NT Government agencies to also participate in this accreditation program and it is expected that during the next 24 months there will be a number of agencies achieving this accreditation.

### Strategy and Community Development Financial Performance

Output Group/Output	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Regional Services</b>	<b>120 488</b>	<b>152 798</b>	<b>137 670</b>
Indigenous Essential Services	71 278	73 125	<b>73 125</b>
Remote Infrastructure Coordination	11 748	29 949	<b>17 821</b>
Homelands, Outstations and Town Camps	34 447	44 739	<b>42 107</b>
Community Development	2 243	3 412	<b>3 129</b>
Strategy	773	1 573	<b>1 488</b>

#### Key Strategy and Community Development Financial Variances

The significant increase between the 2013-14 actual result and the 2014-15 budget for the remote infrastructure coordination output was mainly due to carried-forward prior year funding, one-off funding for the Galiwinku sewerage upgrade and additional Commonwealth funding for the asbestos removal program and Ilpeye Ilpeye project. The variance between the 2014-15 budget and the 2014-15 actual is mainly due to revised timing of Commonwealth expenditure commitments relating to these same programs and the cadastral survey program.

Lilla power upgrade.



### Strategy and Community Development Performance by numbers

Key Deliverables	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
<b>Indigenous Essential Services</b>			
Total annual cost of purchasing services for remote localities	\$71.3M	\$73.1M	<b>\$73.1M</b>
Customer satisfaction with services	75%	75%	<b>78%</b>
Remote Infrastructure Coordination			
Remote towns where all Territory Government infrastructure is secured with longterm tenure arrangements	40	73	<b>63</b>
Remote communities where remote public housing leases are in place	59	104	<b>90</b>
Minor communities where cadastre surveys have been completed	35	49	<b>48</b>
<b>Homelands, Outstations and Town Camps</b>			
Homelands and town camps where municipal essential services and housing maintenance services are delivered	540	540	<b>421</b>
Proportion of service providers meeting service delivery standards	42%	95%	<b>94%</b>
Municipal and essential services grants for homelands and outstations	\$19.0M	\$19.6M	<b>\$20.2</b>
Municipal and essential services grants for town camps	\$2.6M	\$2.7M	<b>\$2.6M</b>
<b>Community Development</b>			
Monitor Stronger Futures implementation plans	9	9	<b>9</b>
<b>Office of Women's Policy</b>			
Number of individuals and organisations assisted with grants	30	54	<b>34</b>
Number of event attendees	357	500	<b>450</b>
Number of forums, workshops and consultations conducted	22	50	<b>15</b>
Client satisfaction	86%	80%	<b>98%</b>
<b>Men's Policy</b>			
Number of Domestic and Family Violence Action Plans completed		6	<b>0</b>
Number of IMAC meetings supported		2	<b>4</b>

#### Key Strategy and Community Development Performance Variations

- There is a significant variation in the number of homelands and town camps that have been funded in 2014-15 (421) compared to the budget and the previous financial year (540). This has resulted from the funding in 2014-15 being more focussed on homelands and town camps that have permanent residents as opposed to prior years when funding was also directed to homeland and town camps with intermitent and seasonal residents.
- Men's Policy had anticipated the development of domestic violence action plans with a number of NT Government agencies, but many agencies have now commenced the process of accreditation with the White Ribbon Foundation and this is considered to be a better outcome than the development of these plans. Therefore no plans were developed this year.



## Business Services

As at 1 July 2014 the Department of Local Government and Regions and Department of Community Services were provided with corporate services by the Department of Housing under a shared services arrangement. Following negotiations with the Department of Housing over a number of months it was determined that a separate agency controlled Business Services Unit would be established within the Department of Community Services, which then became the Department of Local Government and Community Services.

The new in-house Business Services Unit provides financial management, human resource management, information management, information technology, office services and corporate governance business services, while media, marketing and communications services remain provided by the Department of Housing under shared service arrangements.

Financial management, human resource management and corporate governance are covered in more detail in separate chapters of this report.

### Business Services Financial performance

Output Group/Output	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Business Services	3 592	3 009	3 010

### Business Services Performance by numbers

Key Deliverables	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
Client satisfaction with services	n/a	80%	84%

## Performance highlights

- **Completed multiple staff office relocations** to co-locate all agency Darwin based staff in a single tenancy at RCG House and relocated Alice Springs staff into a single tenancy in Alice Plaza.
- **Established new office location** in Alice Plaza for Office of Aboriginal Affairs.
- **Responded** to the People Matter survey.
- **Managed a compliance audit** that resulted in few issues being identified – further details under Corporate Governance.
- **Drafted protocols for the joint use of TRIM** records management system with Department of Housing.

# OUR PEOPLE

## PART

# 3

This section contains biographies and photos of the people who make up the department's leadership team. It provides a staff overview and details the department's human resource management, legislative requirements and formally acknowledges employee achievements.



# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

## Mike Chiodo

### Chief Executive

Mike Chiodo was appointed as Chief Executive, Department of Community Services, in May 2014.

In November 2013 following the suspension of Rio Tinto's gas refinery, Mike was appointed by the Northern Territory Government to work with the Nhulunbuy community to identify future opportunities on longer-term local economy needs.

Previously, Mike held the position of Deputy Chief Executive, Remote Programs, in the Department of Community Services, where he oversaw the operation of homelands, the coordination of whole of sector infrastructure and capital works projects, and leasing agreements in remote locations on behalf of the NT Government.

Mike also spent four years as General Manager of Construction Division and then Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of Construction and Infrastructure following an established career in senior executive management roles implementing and managing major projects with organisations including Coles Myer, Thakral Property Holdings, the City of Sydney and Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.



## Noelene Swanson

### Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Community Development

Noelene's first job as a registered nurse took her around Australia and overseas including Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea and the United States. She undertook a number of post-graduate studies and worked for some time in Universities and consultancy.

Resuming her career in the Northern Territory Public Sector in 1997, Noelene led the development of policy and delivery of services across the Territory from health through to housing.

In 2009 her service was recognised and she was awarded the Chief Ministers Award for Outstanding and Meritorious Service in the Northern Territory Public Sector. In 2012 she was nominated by staff and awarded the Management Excellence Award, Professional Manager of the Year, Public Service by the Australian Institute of Management.

Noelene loves working in the Territory as the artificial barriers that exist between government and non-government services in other jurisdictions are not as obvious and you can get things done.

Throughout her career, Noelene has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for the development of evidence based policies that provide opportunities for people to equally participate in society, particularly for Territorians living in remote locations.





## David Alexander

### Executive Director Language and Business Services

Spanning 15 years David Alexander's career with the Northern Territory Public Service commenced in 1996 as an advanced graduate within the Department of Lands and Housing. He now holds a senior position within the Department of Local Government and Community Services where he is responsible for managing the Aboriginal Interpreter Service, the Interpreting and Translating Service of the NT, and the Department's Business Services functions.

Prior to joining government David volunteered in Afghanistan and worked for the Northern Land Council.

During his public service career David has held senior positions including Chief Finance Officer, Director Indigenous Housing, and Director Local Government and Outstations.

David has a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Business and Masters of Social Science. He is a committee member of the Institute for Public Administration Australia (NT branch) and Chair of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's Audit Committee.



## David Willing

### Executive Director Local Government

David Willing moved to the Northern Territory fifteen years ago following a twelve-year career in the Australian Defence Force. He worked for the Australian Government in executive roles in Alice Springs for seven years before moving to Nhulunbuy for the Northern Territory Government.

During the 2008 local government reforms and establishment of shire councils, David was the Shire Manager for both the East and West Arnhem Shire Councils. He also led the operationalisation of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program across the Arnhem region.

David moved to Darwin in 2010, initially as the Executive Director Darwin Region for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services before transferring to the Department of the Chief Minister as the Executive Director Security and Government Services. In July 2014 David returned to Local Government as the Executive Director.

He is a member of the NT Grants Commission, Chairman of the Jabiru Town Development Authority and of the NT Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

David's studies include Asian Studies and Linguistics. He is an accredited interpreter in Indonesian, is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and holds a Graduate Certificate in Management and Master's Degree in Public Sector Leadership.



## Leeanne Caton

### Executive Director Office of Aboriginal Affairs

A Kalkadoon Woman, Leeanne Caton grew up and was educated in Darwin. She has family and cultural connections throughout the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland.

Leeanne has worked in the private sector including universities as well as for the Australian, Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments. She has over thirty years experience in Aboriginal health, education, employment, social justice, housing and economic development arenas, experience she acquired moving between Darwin, Alice Springs and Perth.

Leeanne's experience immediately prior to accepting the role of Executive Director Office of Aboriginal Affairs was Managing Director with Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd, an Aboriginal owned and managed Housing Company based in Perth WA.

Under Leeanne's leadership the company achieved a sustainable and viable independent economic position, demonstrating their capacity to be a successful landholder and property manager into the future.



## Antony Yoffa

### Regional Director Central Australia

Antony has been with the agency since its formation in late 2014. He oversees the delivery of the Homelands Program in Central Australia, as well as providing management across the agency and participating in the Executive team.

He arrived in the Northern Territory on a working holiday in the late 80s and spent 25 years in the employment and training fields in both the community and public sector. Whilst working for GTNT in Alice Springs, he implemented programs that supported school leavers and Indigenous people into apprenticeship pathways.

Antony's public sector career with the NT Government began in 2012. He has undertaken a number of roles with a focus on Indigenous employment and economic development.

He has lived throughout the NT and is well known in Central Australia as the President of the Finke Desert Race Club and is a former ABC radio presenter.



# OUR PEOPLE

## Staff snapshot

At 30 June 2015, a total of 222 full-time equivalents (FTE) staff were employed; total staff numbers (headcount) was 600.

The table below provides a snapshot of DLGCS staff as at 30 June 2015 and where available provides a Northern Territory Public Service (NTPS) comparison.

	Number	Percentage %	NTPS comparison %
<b>Staff Numbers</b>			
Staff as at 30 June 2015 (FTE)	222		1.1% of total NTPS
Total Staff Numbers	600		
Part Time Staff	24	4%	8.9%
Casual Staff (1)	410	68%	8.7%
<b>Demographics</b>			
Male: Female Ratio (FTE) <sup>1</sup>	88:134	40:60	62:38
Male: Female Senior Management Ratio (FTE) (2)	16:7	70:30	53:47
Average Age	46		42
Indigenous Staff (total staff numbers)	286	48%	9.4%
Staff with a Disability	7	1%	1%
<b>Turnover FTE</b>			
Commencements	27	12%	26.8%
Separations	35	16%	25.2%

<sup>1</sup> Senior management includes executive contract officers and senior administration officers level 2

Our department has a substantially higher rate of Indigenous employment than the whole of the NTPS, with 48 per cent of all staff being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. Our department has 68 per cent casual staff, due to the large number of casual interpreters employed, as compared to 8.7 per cent across the NTPS.

Staff development is important - Diandra Leong's graduation.



Our department has a substantially higher rate of Indigenous employment than the whole of the NTPS.

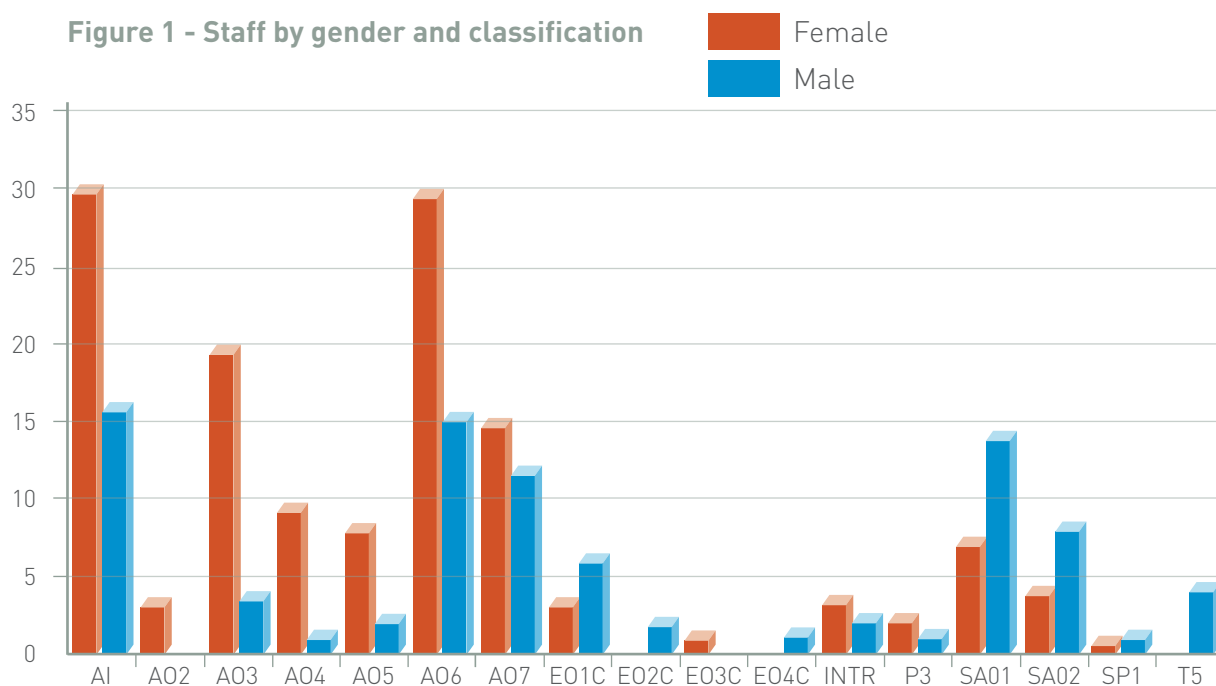




## Gender and level

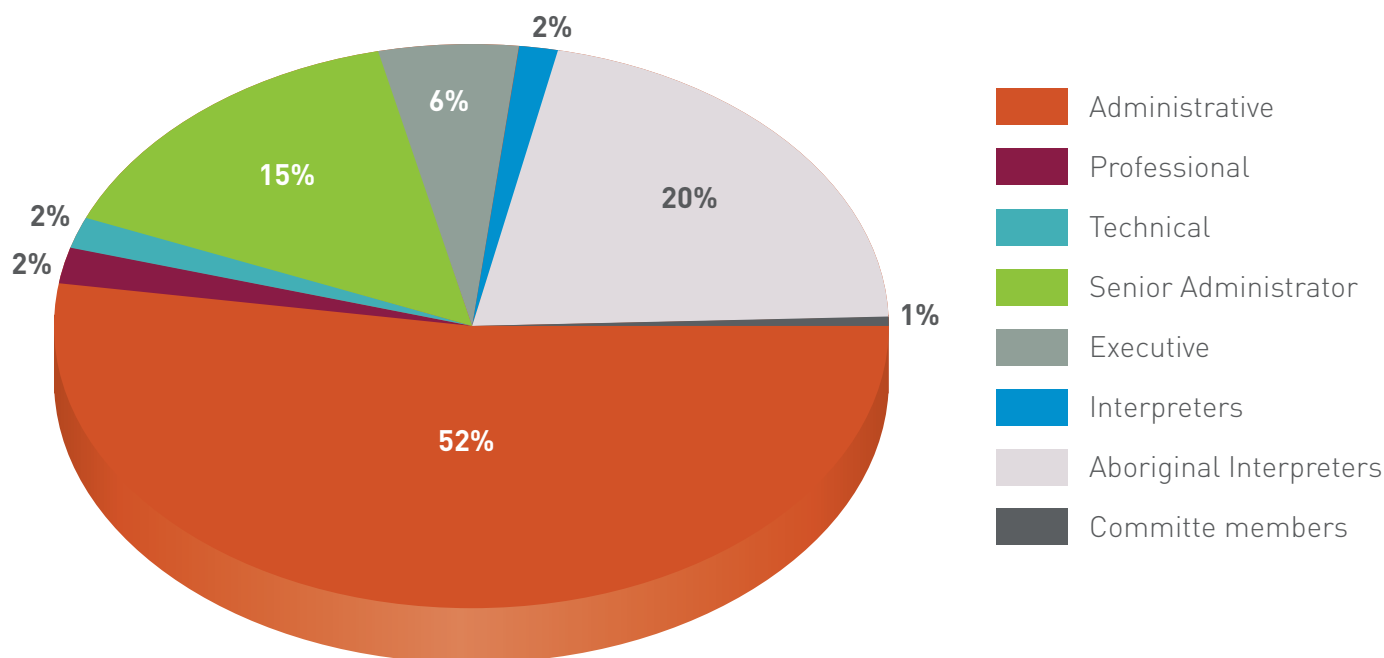
**Figure 1** identifies staff by gender for each classification level by FTE numbers. The largest numbers of staff are in the Aboriginal Interpreters (AI) and Administrative Officers 6 (A06). Females predominantly occupy the lower and middle level roles, administrative officers.

**Figure 1 - Staff by gender and classification**



**Figure 2** demonstrates the distribution of staff across employment types as at 30 June 2015.

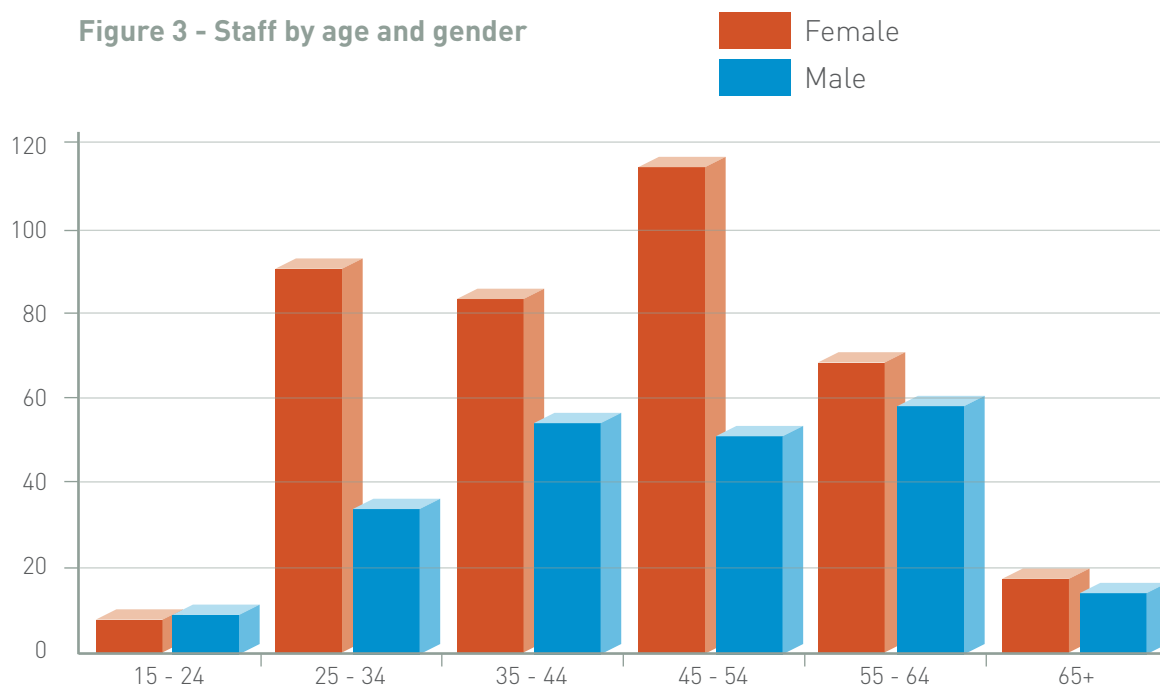
**Figure 2 - Staff by employment type (FTE)**



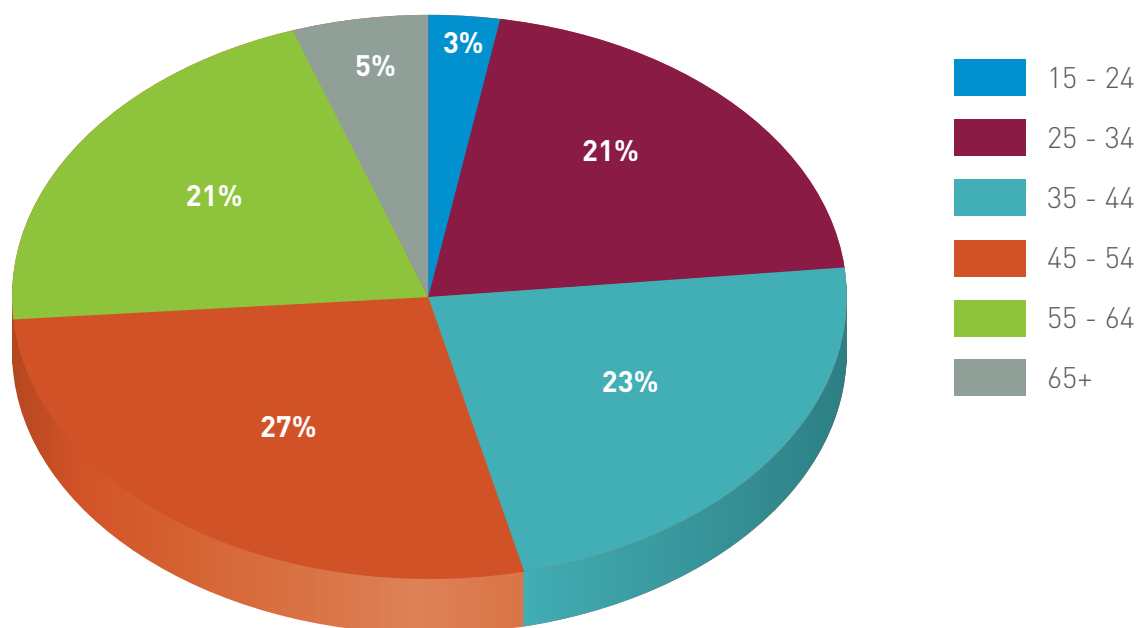
## Average age

The average age of DLGS staff is 46 years on total staff numbers, compared to the average across the NTPS of 42. The age and gender of total staff are shown in **Figure 3**. **Figure 4** demonstrates the department's age profile by percentage.

**Figure 3 - Staff by age and gender**



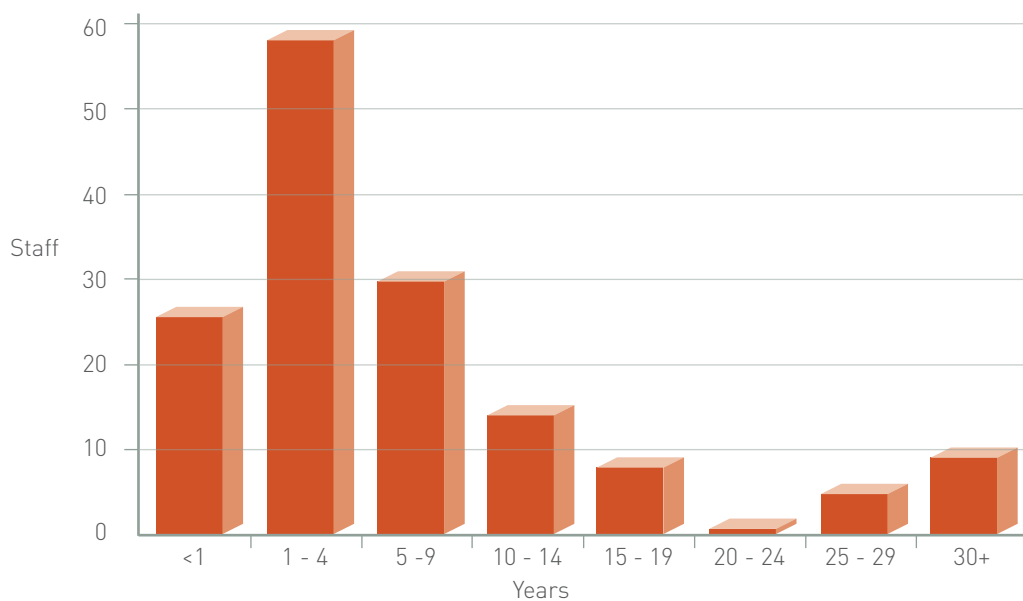
**Figure 4 - Age profile**



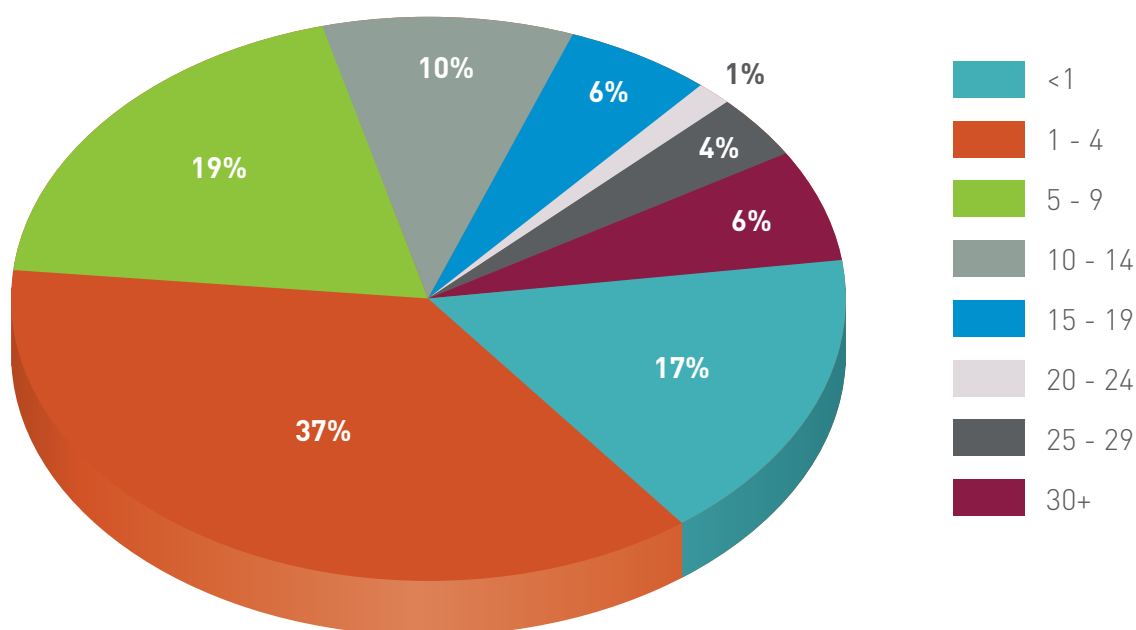
## Years of service

**Figures 5 and 6** illustrates staff years of service at 30 June 2015 according to the milestone groups. Over 46.6 per cent of DLGCS staff have completed 10 or more years of service within the NTPS.

**Figure 5 - Length of service**



**Figure 6 - Length of service**



Congratulations on  
40 years of service  
– Michelle Howard





## Supporting and growing our people

### Change Management

In November 2014 an agreement was reached between the CEOs of the Department of Housing and the Department of Community Services that the Corporate Services Division would be split into two, with one third of staff being transferred to the Department of Community Services. On 1 December 2014 the Department of Community Services established its own Business Services Division to service both the Department of Community Services and the Department of Local Government and Regions.

As per the agreement, the then current shared services arrangement provided by the Department of Housing ceased effective 1 December 2014 with the permanent transfer of 20 positions from human resources, occupational health and safety, finance and accounting, information and technology, records management and office services.

Due to a reshuffle of Ministerial portfolios on Friday 12 December 2014, and the issuing of a new Administrative Arrangements Order, the former Departments of Local Government and Regions and Community Services merged to form the new Department of Local Government and Community Services. The Minister for Local Government and Community Services was also announced, Minister Bess Price, who was the Minister for Community Services for some time took on the responsibility for Local Government as well.

The Department of Local Government and Community Services was structured with four divisions: Remote Services Delivery; Strategy and Community Development; Local Government; and Language and Business Services.

Change is managed within the department through a planned and controlled consultative process, as recommended by the Commissioner of Public Employment. Following the decision to establish the Business Services Division within our department for instance, there were individual conversations with all affected staff and team meetings to resolve any broader issues arising from the changed arrangements. The transfer was achieved with minimal disruption to staff with no complaints or significant matters raised during the change management process.

### People Matter Survey

The People Matter Survey was open to all Northern Territory Government employees with the purpose to gather information about a broad range of issues including work environment, job satisfaction, and the ways in which the agency, and its managers in the workplace operate. The responses provided valuable data for building a positive work environment in the agency and across the public sector as a whole.

The Department of Local Government and Community Services was in the top eight responding agencies with a 76 per cent response rate. The results of the People Matter Survey were provided to all staff within the agency, with the Chief Executive highlighting that the agency areas of strengths being:

- supporting various flexible work options
- good performance agreement processes
- that employees provide help and support to their colleagues
- ensuring that clients/customers receive a high standard of service.

These strengths are a celebration of what the agency does well and will need to be maintained by continuing to support flexible work options, continue to be consistent with the performance agreement process and employees continue to work together to achieve common outcomes.

The results also identified areas for improvement in:

- recruitment, promotion and development processes
- change management communications
- inappropriate workplace behaviours and process for dealing with this.

The identified improvements will be worked on to make the agency a satisfying and more productive work place. Based on insights gained from the survey results the Chief Executive made a commitment to establish different ways of doing things in order to achieve improvements.

These actions include:

- Mandatory training in recruitment and selection for all employees to help develop the skills of all employees participating in any form of recruitment. And, to ensure that all processes are merit based, fair and transparent.
- Develop and implement agency policy to include training for senior staff to strengthen leadership and management capabilities in the area of change management and better communication specifically regarding organisational change.
- Appropriate workplace behaviour information sessions to be conducted in all regions. An agency policy will be prepared to address behaviours and all aspects of the working environment to provide a safe working environment for all employees. The policy will reflect the public service code of conduct
- Conflict management training to provide a positive approach to conflict resolution.

The Department of  
Local Government  
and Community  
Services

supports  
various flexible work  
options

good  
performance  
agreement processes

that employees  
provide help and

support  
to their  
colleagues

ensuring that clients/  
customers receive a

high  
standard of  
service.

## Supporting Employment Programs

The department is committed to supporting the entry-level employment program, and where possible utilising this program to recruit to vacant entry-level positions.

## Training and Development

In 2014-2015, the department invested \$160 000 on training and development for its employees, additional to the above entry level programs. This equates to \$700 per full time employee and includes study assistance, short course training and leadership programs.

Internal training and development opportunities provided include:

- Staff rotation/development
- Trim training
- Inductions for new starters
- Squiz internet tools

External training provided to employees included:

- Emerging Leaders Program – four graduates
- Punctuation Writing Course – fourteen participants
- Project Management – one graduate
- Diploma in Business Human Resource – one current student
- Certificate III in Business – one graduate
- CPA Australia – one current student

## OCPE Leadership Programs

The Commissioner for Public Employment is dedicated to strengthening the leadership capability of the NTPS, to promote effective decision making as employees navigate their public sector careers through the inevitable complexities and challenges that will arise along the way. Department of Local Government and Community Services supports staff access to the following professional leadership programs through OCPE and has a number of staff currently participating:

- Public Sector Management Program – one current student
- Discovery Program
- 360 Degree Feedback
- Lookrikun Program – two current students
- Future Leaders Program – one current student
- HR/IR Development Program

## Building Capabilities of our Employees

To maintain a skilled and capable workforce, the department is committed to developing staff, through targeted learning and development training programs and opportunities, as well as developing leadership capability and preparing for future workforce needs through commitment to early career programs.



## MORE THAN JUST WORK

### Social Club

In October 2014, senior management from the previous Department of Local Government and Regions and the Department of Community Services approached their Chief Executive with a proposal for starting up a combined staff social club. The proposal included a club name and staff nominations to form a social club committee with two representatives from each main staffing group within the departments. The proposal was approved in November 2014, and the FuZion Social Club came into establishment.

To start off the club funds were made up from the existing Department of Local Government and Regions social club along with donations from the Department of Community Services that brought the fund pool to more than \$300.

The FuZion Social Club Committee met for the first time in early December 2014, to confirm appointment of nominated members and to commence plans for the annual staff Christmas function. On 19 December 2014, staff expressed their thanks by nominating the club for an award of appreciation.

Following that initial success the committee has worked to put together a number of functions including Australia Day and Harmony Day observances and a number of fundraising initiatives that were enjoyed by staff. With the kitty standing at close to \$1400 the committee are looking ahead to plan this year's Christmas event bigger and better than ever as well as looking at ways the committee can support charitable organisations through functions and donations.

#### Events held December 2014 to June 2015:

Date	Event
19/12/2014	Christmas Party
23/01/2015	Australia Day 2015
13/02/2015	Friday 13 Fry Up
20/03/2015	Harmony Day Event
05/06/2015	BBQ Breakfast

Prior to the establishment of the FuZion Social Club the department hosted a number of events that were organised by interested staff, including the Australian Red Cross Big Cake Bake that raised \$400 for Red Cross and the NAIDOC Week luncheon.

Red Cross fundraising morning tea.



## NAIDOC Week Celebrations – July 2014

Darwin staff were invited to celebrate NAIDOC week with a lunch held on Thursday 10 July on the front lawns of RCG House. Everyone was encouraged to contribute with a pot of something to share. The lawns came alive as staff were entertained by the One Mob Traditional Dancers, Torres Strait Islander Dancers and the singing of David Spry. The wonderful food cooked by our staff was good enough for entry into MasterChef.

With the largest number of staff of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent of any NT Government agency, our department has a special affiliation with NAIDOC Day and the NAIDOC week events. The sharing of food among our staff is a strong gesture of support and appreciation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples and culture that typifies our department.

## National Youth Week and the Youth Week Networking

On 10 April 2015 the department held its first celebration to observe National Youth Week 2015 (10 – 19 April 2015). The celebrations commenced in style with a morning tea held simultaneously across three offices in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine.

During the week primary focus was given to acknowledging and handing out staff awards to employees 25 years and under. This year's awards went to:

**Ms Diandra Leong,** for her outstanding Academic Achievements  
**Ms Jasmine Raymond,** for ongoing peer support, guidance and mentoring  
**Ms Rosie King,** for her exceptional sporting achievements

The formation of our first Youth Networking Group was also a key focus during youth week. The group aims to support and develop staff employed in the age demographic of school leavers to 30 years old. Three young achievers from the department were nominated and accepted as champions of their peers; Beata Wojak, Chantelle Filipe and Charlie Fuller.

The group aims to give youth a voice and provide them with greater support, guidance and freedom of speech. To this end the Youth Networking Group Champions started work immediately with the human resource team to identify resources to provide better support and a forum for younger staff. These resources include a dedicated intranet page to be launched later in 2015.

### Youth Networking Group achievements to date:

10 April 2015	2015 National Youth Week launch morning tea
15 April 2015	Inaugural Youth Networking Group meeting and induction
1-22 April 2015	2015 National Youth Week Award nomination period
19 June 2015	2015 National Youth Week Award presentation ceremony

## NAIDOC Week Celebrations – July 2014





## Equal Employment Opportunity and Workforce Diversity

The Department of Local Government and Community Services celebrates the diversity of its staff and treats everyone equally in the workplace, with differences respected and valued. All employees are afforded the same rights and have the same obligations - men, women, Indigenous Australians, people with a disability, mature aged people, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The employment of interpreters, both Aboriginal and ethnic language interpreters, within our department ensures that we are one of the most diverse employers within the Northern Territory.

Jealous Nesvinga graduated from the Emerging Leaders Program.



## Indigenous Employment

The department is increasing the focus on Indigenous employment in line with the strategic direction for the NTPS as well as the department's strategic plan. Our department was one of the first departments within the NT Public Service to introduce special measures to further increase our Aboriginal workforce.

Special measures provide for the focused employment of suitably qualified and skilled Aboriginal employees. Under special measures, Aboriginal applicants who meet all of the selection criteria to the required standard for a vacant position will receive preference in the recruitment process over non-Aboriginal applicants. This ensures that the successful applicant has the skills and abilities required to undertake the role while also providing employment opportunities for Aboriginal applicants.

Kigaruk, Indigenous Men's Leadership program graduate, Kevin Tilmouth.





# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Work health and safety framework

### Workplace Injuries

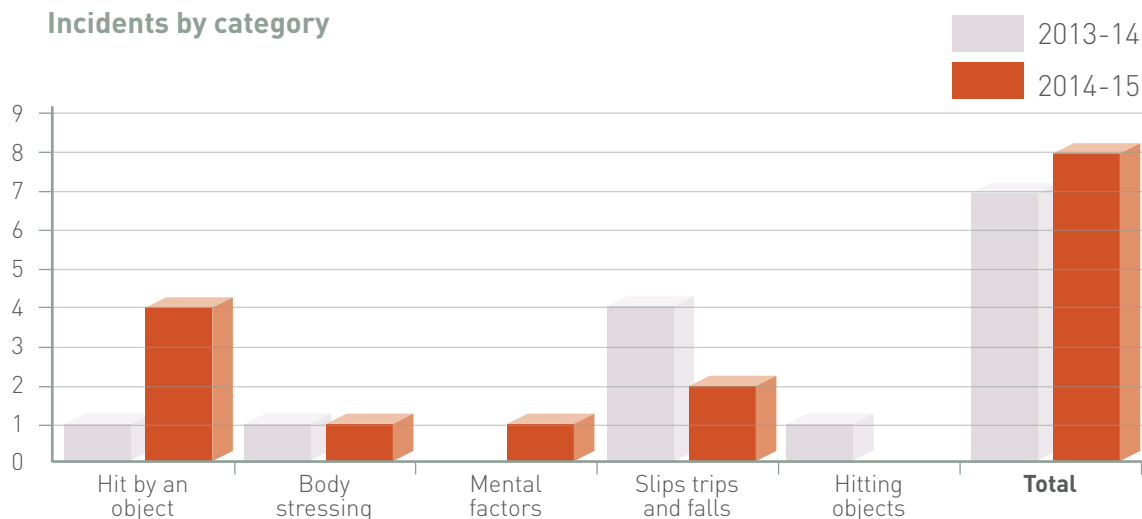
The number of reported workplace incident reports rose from seven in 2013-14 to eight in 2014-15, all incidents occurred in the Top End. Despite the increase in the number of reports the cost incurred as a result of workplace injury claims reduced by \$158 000 over the same period.

Of the eight reports submitted, three were outside the building and related to peewee attacks on staff. This issue has been ongoing and is mitigated by strategies to improve awareness during the periods when peewees are most active, and by advising staff how to dress to reduce the damage they can inflict.

#### Incidents by financial year

	2013-14	2014-15	Totals
Incidents	7	8	15
<b>Annual Incident Increase / (Decrease)</b>		<b>1</b>	

#### Incidents by category



## Flexible Work Arrangements

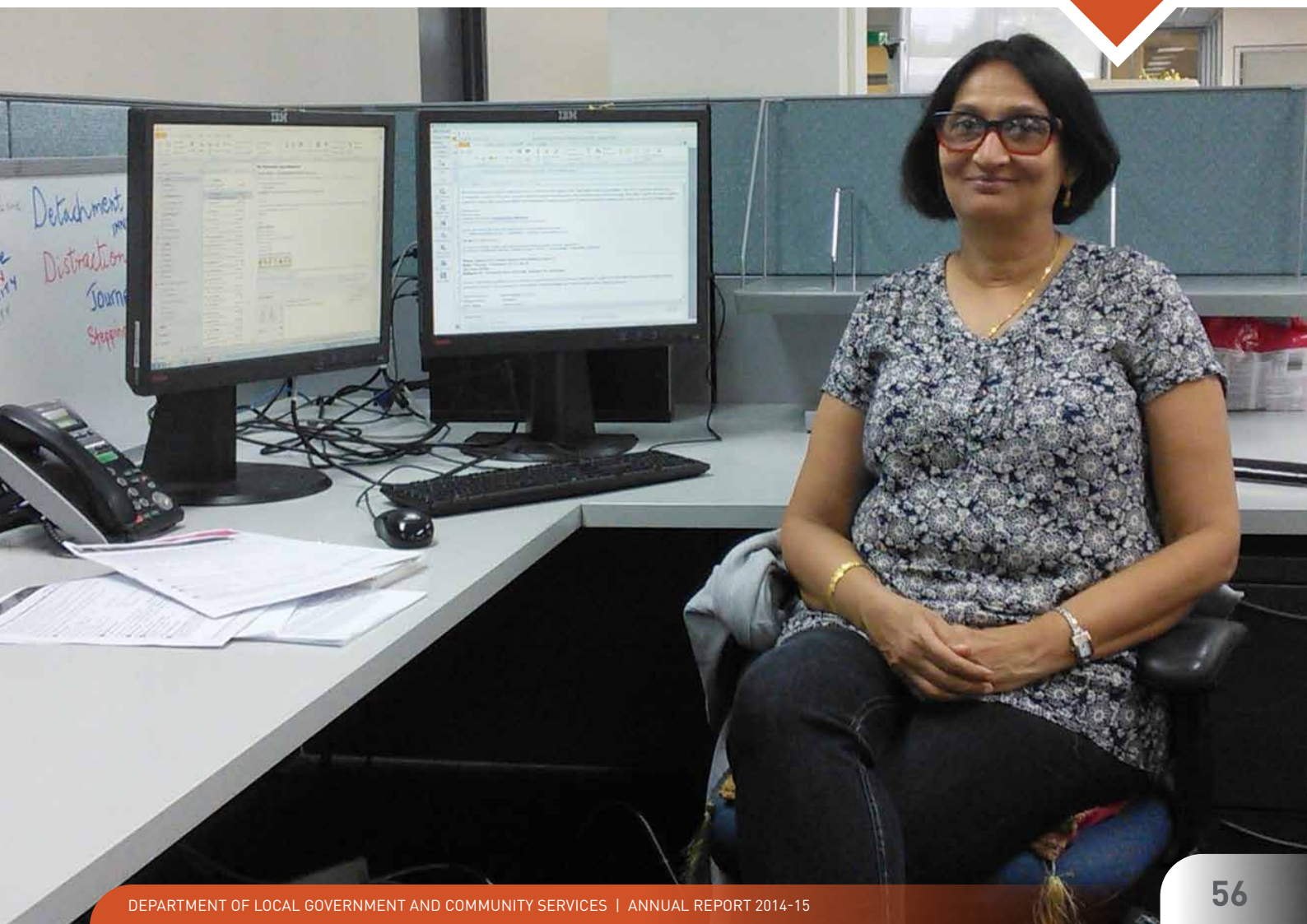
The department supports flexible work practices for employees, where the work unit is able to effectively manage the arrangement, in an effort to promote improved work life balance arrangements when they are requested by employees.

	Number
Flexible working hours	10
Part-Time work arrangements	10
Transition into Retirement	3
Careers Break	1
Recreation Leave at Half Pay	8

## Employee Assistance Program

Employees and their immediate family can access confidential services of psychologists and professional counsellors to address work, personal and family matters. The providers offer professional counselling, training and development workshops, and management planning sessions, mediation, career counselling and management coaching. This service is regularly promoted to staff and is covered in the department's orientation program.

The Department understands the need for staff to have an appropriate environment to do their work.



## Legislative Compliance - Reporting Against Employment Instructions

Employment Instructions are rules relating to the functions and powers of the Commissioner for Public Employment under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

The department's performance against each Employment Instruction is detailed below.

Employment Instructions and Annual Reporting Requirements	Department Actions
<b>1 Filling Vacancies</b> Internal procedures on recruitment and selection.	Procedures reviewed and information is provided to managers and staff about selection processes, including promoting the merit selection training that is offered across the sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 162 vacancies advertised</li> <li>• 27 staff commenced</li> <li>• 35 separations were processed</li> <li>• 0 appeals were lodged</li> </ul>
<b>2 Probation</b> Probationary process for the agency.	Managers and new employees are informed about the probation processes.
<b>3 Natural Justice</b> The principles of natural justice to be observed in all dealings with employees.	The principles of natural justice are integral to addressing employee related matters. There were no issues regarding lack of natural justice raised by Department of Local Government and Community Service's staff.
<b>4 Employee Performance Management and Development Systems</b> Chief Executive to develop and implement performance management systems for their agency.	Our people are our most important assets, and are essential to the department's continuous improvement and high performance. Personal Development Plans (PDPs) are a responsibility of all staff and are critical to achieving our strategic direction. PDPs are an important tool for individual development and career progression. The agency has PDP guidelines and templates available on the intranet. The Human Resource Consultants provide information sessions and support to all managers.
<b>5 Medical Examinations</b> The Chief Executive may engage a health practitioner to conduct a medical examination of an employee.	Early intervention action is taken to minimise medical referral cases. The services of the employee assistance programs are promoted regularly to staff - there were no staff referred for a medical examination during the year.



- 
- 6 Performance and Inability**  
The Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding inability within their Agency
- Performance and Inability action occur in consultation with Managers.  
There were nil performance and inability cases in 2014-15.
- 
- 7 Discipline**  
The Chief Executive may establish procedures regarding discipline within their Agency
- Breaches of conduct and discipline matters are addressed on a case-by-case basis.  
There was one (1) discipline case in 2014-15.
- 
- 8 Internal Agency Complaints and Section 59 Grievance Review**  
Chief Executive to establish, and make available to staff, the Agency's written procedures that outline steps for dealing with grievances
- Managers and employees are informed of the internal complaint handling process.  
One (1) complaint was made under the Agency's internal complaint handling process in 2014-15.
- 
- 9 Employment Records**  
Agencies are required to maintain appropriate employee records and implement procedures for maintaining and accessing these records
- Staff are informed of the information and records management requirement using the Tower Records Information Management (TRIM) system; and the requirement to manage records electronically.  
This includes records relating to the employment history of an employee.
- 
- 10 Equality of Employment Opportunity Programs**  
The Chief Executive to report, annually, to the OCPE on programs and initiatives the Agency has developed regarding equal employment opportunities
- The department has a diverse workforce including staff from a wide range of non-English Speaking backgrounds.  
The department has implemented special measures to further improve the Aboriginal employment outcomes.
- 
- 11 Occupational Health and Safety Standards Program**  
The Chief Executive to report, annually on work, health and safety programs
- There are four (4) workers compensation claims.  
Employees are advised of potential hazards in and around the building, when identified.  
The department is moving to reestablish the WHS Committee for its headquarters at RCG House but in all other centers where there are shared building arrangements, the department's staff cooperate with building wide workplace safety arrangements.
-

# OUR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

P A R T

4

Outlines the department's culture, responsibilities and internal governance arrangements and reports on our corporate governance committees.



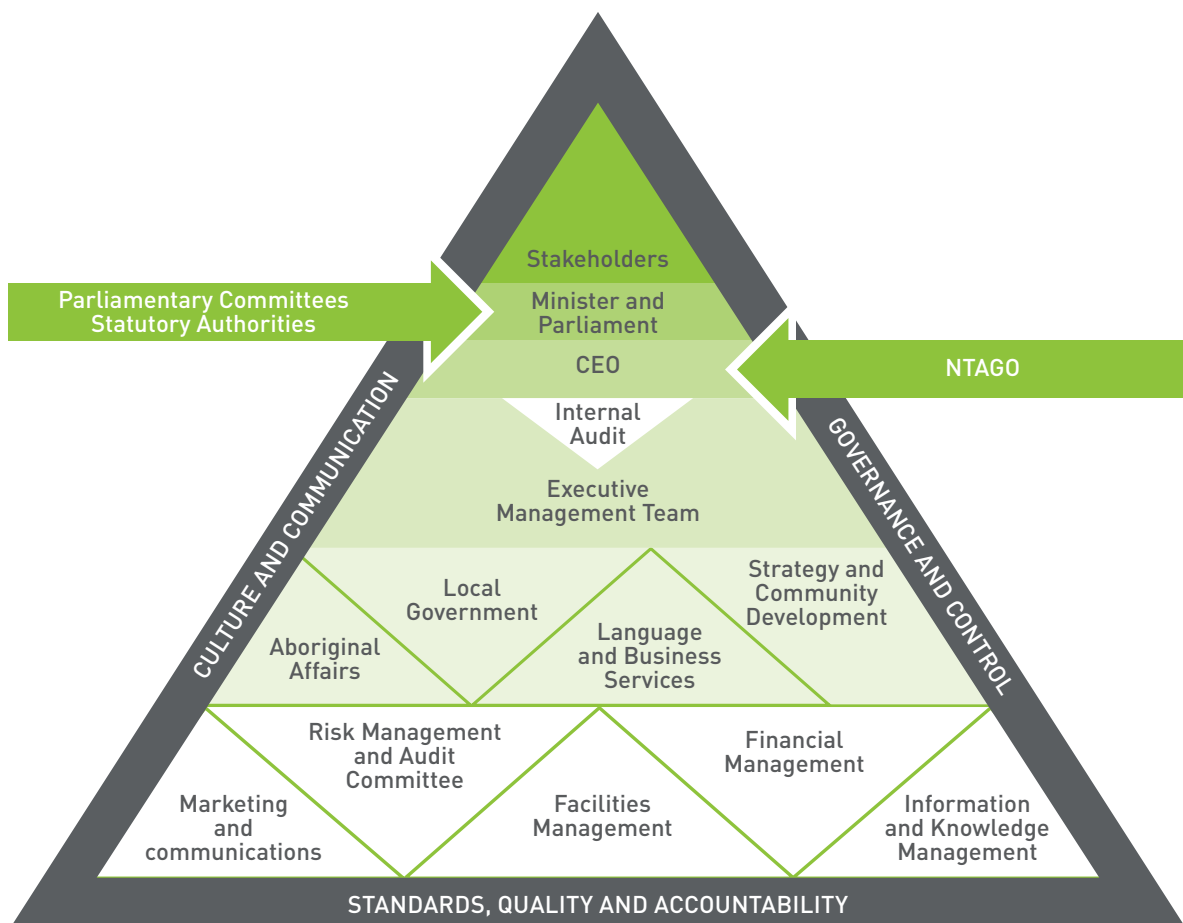
# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Department of Local Government and Community Services is committed to maintaining an effective governance process, based on a decision making framework involving successful leadership, competent management, monitoring, risk management and clear accountability and responsibility.

The department's governance framework facilitates the effective and efficient delivery of policy, services, and departmental responsibilities. It ensures the delivery of strategic pursuits and operations with due diligence and accountability.

To support executive decision making in the department, the Executive Management Team and the Risk Management and Audit Committee are established to ensure transparency and performance, and the monitoring and management of risk.

The framework includes governance and control mechanisms and a positive culture and communication process, both of which are founded on high standards of quality and accountability within the department.



Legislation  
Policies and delegations  
Code of Conduct  
Business Improvement  
Internal Auditing

External accountability mechanisms  
Financial management and budgeting  
Planning and Performance  
Monitoring and Review  
Risk Management



## Risk Management

The practice of risk management is recognised as being a core component of an organisation's governance framework.

Risk management is defined through international standards as being an ongoing process of defined steps that are used to support all levels of an organisation's management in decision-making processes by providing a greater awareness of the risks to, and impacts upon, all aspects of business activity.

The department recognises the challenges of risk management and the priority on implementing risk management mitigation strategies to manage key risks and has developed a Risk Management Self Assessment approach to risk management, which is further explained later in this chapter.

## Audit

Auditing is an independent, objective, assurance and consulting activity, designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations, by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

The department recognises that it has finite internal resources to fulfil the needs of the governance framework and audit activities will utilise appropriately qualified and experienced external resources where appropriate to do so.

One external compliance audit of the department was conducted (the audit considered the Department of Local Government and Regions and the Department of Community Services separately), which identified a number of matters to be addressed, with the same issues identified within both departments. The overall finding was that accounting and control procedures examined provide reasonable assurance of the environment if those systems continue to operate as identified during the audit, although a number of issues were identified in relation to administrative processes. The identified issues, response and subsequent actions are in the table below.

Issue	Response	Actions
The department does not have an adequate internal audit capacity	Following the transition from a shared services environment in December 2014 there have been efforts to address governance and risk management within the department.	Established a new Risk Management and Audit Committee to report to the Chief Executive on risk management and internal control mechanisms within the department.
Some supporting documentation relating to procurement testing was not provided	To improve understanding of procurement processes, transparency and information management, the department is implementing further training in the procurement process and will be rolling out of the a purchase requisition module developed by the Department of Corporate and Information Services.	The Department of Business has been invited to undertake "Procurement Awareness" presentations early in 2015-16.
Prior approvals were not evident for all of the official travel, telephones and hospitality expense transactions tested	Following the cessation of the shared services arrangement with Department of Housing, the Department of Local Government and Community Services has become responsible for all corporate services and created a Business Services unit. This has enabled the agency to implement a review of the agency's financial policies and method of monitoring budget and specific expenditure.	Training and information has been provided across the department to remind staff of the need for all expenditure to be approved, in writing, prior to expenditure and for documentation to be properly filed.
It was noted that the personal usage of mobile telephones does not currently appear to be adequately monitored	A process of monitoring personal use will be implemented.	The department has increased monitoring of telephone use and is reviewing the policy in relation to appropriate use.

## Risk and Control

The Governance Framework is designed to assist with implementing decisions and monitoring governance processes, risk management activity and internal control mechanisms.

The framework is based on the use of a Risk Control Self Assessment (RCSA) methodology across the department.

A 'control process' is a check or process performed to reduce or eliminate the risk of error. There are a number of ways a control self-assessment can be implemented but its key feature is that, in contrast to a traditional audit, the tests and checks are made by staff whose normal day-to-day responsibilities are within the business unit being assessed.

One of the advantages of a RCSA methodology is that it can empower the process owners to take responsibility for identifying and mitigating risks in their areas of responsibility.

RCSA activities are to be coordinated across each division and designed to provide an integrated approach to identified areas of risk. This will provide a snapshot of levels of risk management in a variety of functions across the department in any one-year period, and the effectiveness of risk management as a decision-making framework across the department. RCSA intends to create a clear line of accountability for controls, reduces the risk of fraud and the creation of an organisation with a lower risk profile.

The effectiveness of the RCSA process will be tested by an annual audit of the application of the integrated RCSA process and the results reported to the Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC).

This structured process will:

- provide a source of autonomous risk management advice to the Chief Executive and Executive Management team;
- identify the mechanism for establishing and maintaining an audit program that will provide for regular reviews of the processes impacted by major risks identified in the department's corporate documentation;
- facilitate the implementation of a program of control self assessment within the department;
- provide a reporting arrangement for the RMAC on the adequacy of the risk management function;
- identify any follow up actions necessary to ensure implementation of action plans to mitigate risk.

## Risk Management and Audit Committee

The Risk Management and Audit Committee promotes the use of appropriate risk management and audit policies, standards and procedures. It aims to provide a level of independence in advice provided to the Chief Executive in the role of overseeing the department's governance, risk and control frameworks, and its external accountability requirements.

The committee also assists the Chief Executive in meeting the obligations of the Accountable Officer under sections 13 and 15 of the *Financial Management Act*.

### Performance Management

Performance of the Committee will be measured by:

- monitoring and evaluating the progress of the annual risk management and audit plan
- annual review of audit performance by the Chief Executive and RMAC.

### Accountability

The Chief Executive, the RMAC and the Executive Director of Business Services are responsible for the effective implementation of this policy.

### Authority

The Chief Executive authorises the RMAC, within the scope of its role and responsibilities, to:

- obtain any information it needs from any employee and/or external party (subject to their legal obligation to protect information)
- discuss any matters with the external auditor, or other external parties (subject to confidentiality considerations)
- request the attendance of any employee, including the Chief Executive at RMAC meetings
- obtain external legal or other professional advice, as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities.

### Composition and tenure

The RMAC consists of five members with the Chief Executive appointing the Chair and members of the committee. The Chair must be an independent member. The Chair is counted as one member of the committee.

Current members of the Risk Management and Audit Committee are Graham Symons (Independent Chair), Jacqueline Dowling (Independent member), Noelene Swanson, Shaun Hardy and Leeanne Forday. One member will be appointed from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in 2015-16 and George Timson is the identified alternate member of the committee. The Chief Finance Officer and Director Business Services are observers, as is the Chief Executive.



## Executive Leadership

The department's Executive Leadership is the responsibility of the Chief Executive who is supported through weekly executive meetings by the Executive team. The Executive comprises the Deputy Chief Executive, Noelene Swanson; Executive Director Local Government, David Willing; Executive Director Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Leeanne Caton; Executive Director Language and Business Services, David Alexander; and Director Central Australia, Antony Yoffa.

Due to the size of the department and its business activities, separate governance committees, such as an Information Technology Committee or a Finance Sub-Committee, which are common in a number of other departments, are incorporated into the activities of the Executive meetings, with every third Executive meeting focusing on corporate and operational issues.

The Executive meetings include participation of other appropriate officers at scheduled meetings, with regional Executive Directors from the Department of the Chief Minister and the North Australian Development Office involved in every third meeting to ensure a strong connection remains with the work delivered across Northern Territory regions.

## Committees

### Local Government Disciplinary Committee

A Local Government Disciplinary Committee was constituted for each complaint about a code of conduct breach by elected members of local government bodies during 2014-15.

Each committee consists of:

- a legal practitioner nominated by the Attorney-General
- a nominee of the Minister
- a nominee of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT).

In 2014-15, the department referred 11 complaints to a disciplinary committee.

### Local Government (Administration and Legislation) Advisory Committee

The Local Government (Administration and Legislation) Advisory Committee is established under the Local Government (Administration) Regulations. The Chair is the CEO of LGANT and members are appointed as follows:

- a (further) person appointed by LGANT
- two members appointed by the department
- two members appointed by Local Government Managers Australia
- two council officers co-opted to the committee after a selection process approved by the minister.

The committee meets quarterly and advises the minister on matters such as rating, portability of long service leave, audit committees, electoral matters and other administration and legislation related issues.

### Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee

The Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee is established under the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations. The Chair is the member representing the Institute of Chartered Accountants and members are appointed by the Minister for Local Government as follows:

- two nominees of LGANT
- two nominees with experience in local government of the department
- two nominees of Local Government Managers Australia
- two nominees of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and Certified Practising Accountants of Australia
- two representatives of the Northern Territory Finance Reference Group.

The committee meets quarterly and advises the minister and the department on matters such as council investments, asset management, audit committees, financial sustainability, long-term financial plans, financial indicators and other financial management and accounting practices and legislation-related issues.

## Planning

The department implements localised planning processes at both the program and project level to ensure commitments are achieved, services delivered and programs effectively implemented.

The 2015-16 financial year will see an increased focus on strategic planning and divisional level business planning to ensure consistency of activity across the organisation.

## Communication - internal and external

The department communicates with staff through regular newsletters providing an update on activities occurring across the organisation, focusing on staff achievements and profiling activities across the regions for all staff to share in the successes of the department.

Regular communication regarding key activities and critical information are sent through internal email system, and the department's intranet is used to communicate important notices regarding future events and activities.

The department communicates with clients and stakeholders through direct correspondence to ensure all necessary information is reaching appropriate stakeholders. The department has also participated in meetings and forums with clients, including information sessions with local government councils, and with outstation and homeland service providers.

## Information Act

There was one Freedom of Information application received by the department in 2014-15, which did not meet the requirements of the *Information Act*. The application, which was received by the department in September 2014, was very broad and did not meet the requirements under the Act. The department wrote to the applicant seeking clarification of the request. The department did not receive a response and the application was not accepted.

## Insurance

The Northern Territory Government applies a self-insurance policy for its general government sector insurable risks. The self-insurance policy covers property and assets, workers compensation, public liability and professional indemnity related liabilities. The Department of Local Government and Community Services does not insure any assets outside this standard self-insurance approach.

## Legislation

The department is responsible for complying with and administering a range of legislation, as follows:

- *Anti-Discrimination Act*
- *Cemeteries Act*
- *Contracts Act*
- *Crown Lands Act (Section 79)*
- *Financial Management Act*
- *Information Act*
- *Jabiru Town Development Act*
- *Local Government (Katherine Rates) Act*
- *Local Government Act*
- *Local Government Grants Commission Act*
- *Northern Territory Rates Act*
- *Nudity Act*
- *Pounds Act*
- *Procurement Act*
- *Public Information Act*
- *Public Sector Employment And Management Act*
- *Status Of Darwin Act*
- *Status Of Palmerston Act*
- *Work Health And Safety Act*

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

P A R T

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Reports on financial management including certification of the financial statements and audited financial statements.





## FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW

The Department of Local Government and Community Services spent \$253 million this year to deliver its primary objectives of:

- building stronger regions and communities through effective local government; the delivery and coordination of critical remote essential infrastructure projects and services
- supporting the multicultural society of the Northern Territory through the provision of interpreting and translating that support meaningful access to services
- having the responsibility for the delivery of an improved remote engagement model; the promotion of safety, equality and participation for women in the Territory; and improved coordination of policy and services for Territory men.

As highlighted earlier in this report, the department spent much of the year as two separate agencies, the Department of Local Government and Regions and the Department of Community Services. On 12 December 2014, following changes to the Administration Arrangements Order, the two departments merged to form the Department of Local Government and Community Services. The 2013-14 actual and 2014-15 Original Budget figures are back casted to reflect the merge to enable comparison between years. An analysis of the financial outcome of the Department is detailed further below.

### Financial Performance Summary

	2014-15 Original Budget	2014-15 Actual	2013-14 Actual	Variation between years	
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
Operating income	231 753	<b>250 881</b>	201 976	48 905	24
Operating expenses	239 763	<b>253 108</b>	195 154	57 954	30
Net operating deficit/surplus	(8 010)	<b>(2 227)</b>	6 822	(9 049)	(133)

In 2014-15 the department reported a \$2.2 million deficit against a budgeted \$8 million deficit, compared to a \$6.8 million surplus recorded in 2013-14. The major contributing factor to either a deficit or surplus result is the timing of grants revenue received and/or distributed. In 2014-15 the net timing difference of grants received and expensed resulted in a grants surplus of \$6.5 million. This was offset by \$8.8 million unforeseen expenditure on Natural Disaster Recovery Relief Arrangements relating to Cyclone Lam and Cyclone Nathan, resulting in the \$2.2 million deficit recorded.

The department reported a \$48.9 million increase in operating income in 2014-15 compared to the 2013-14 year, with \$32.9 million of this increase forecast in the 2014-15 budget and the remaining \$16 million being an unexpected advance payment of the 2015-16 Commonwealth Financial Assistance and Road Grants, received in June 2015.

The total expenditure of \$253.1 million in 2014-15 compared to a budget of \$239.8 million is largely due to unexpected expenditure on Natural Disaster Recovery Relief Arrangements and the revised timing difference of grants payments. This also explains the increase in overall operating expenditure in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14 further details can be found under Operating Expense explanation.

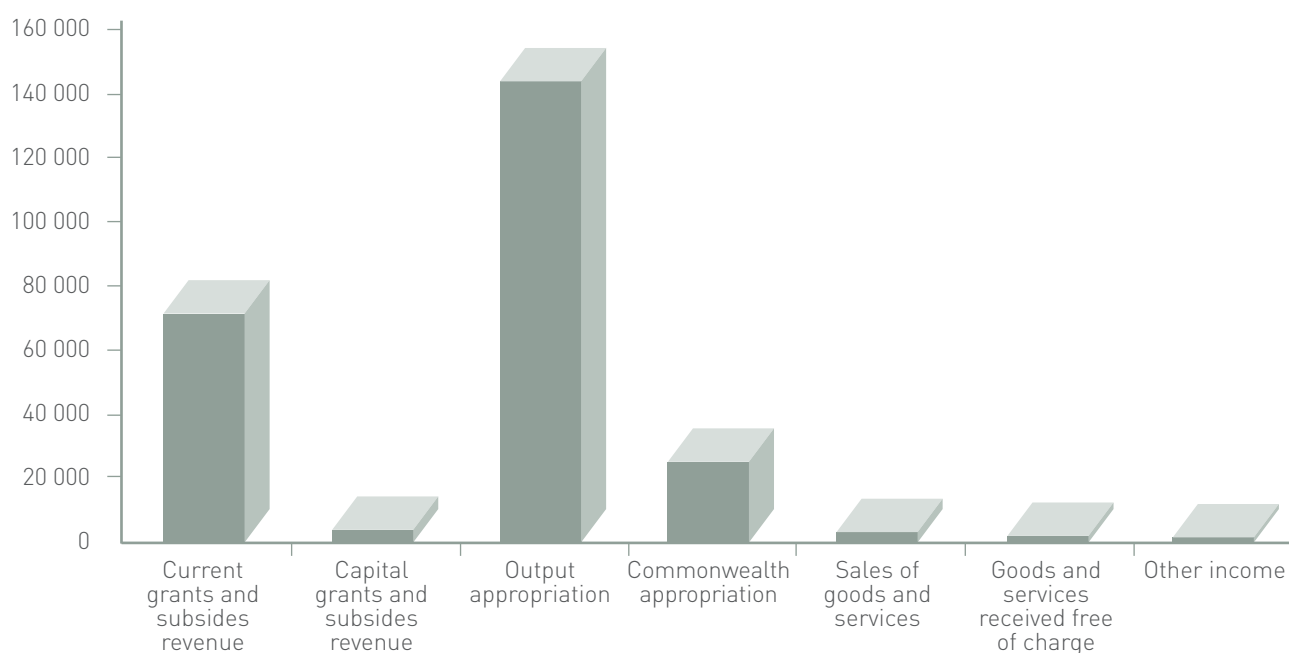
### Operating Income

	2014-15 Original Budget	<b>2014-15 Actual</b>	2013-14 Actual	Variation between years	
	\$000	<b>\$000</b>	\$000	\$000	%
Current grants and subsidies revenue	58 151	<b>71 270</b>	37 978	33 292	88
Capital grants and subsidies revenue	2 430	<b>3 930</b>	7 000	(3 070)	(44)
Output appropriation	142 091	<b>143 658</b>	128 532	15 126	12
Commonwealth appropriation	25 024	<b>25 060</b>	19 744	5 316	27
Sales of goods and services	2 957	<b>3 018</b>	7 477	(4 459)	(60)
Goods and services received free of charge	1 100	<b>2 727</b>	1 155	1 572	136
Other income	-	<b>1 218</b>	90	1 128	1253

The department's 2014-15 total income of \$250.8 million is largely made up of appropriation and grants revenue. The Australian Government contributes approximately 40 per cent of the department's total income, from a combination of grants and appropriation of approximately 30 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. The Northern Territory Government contributes 57 per cent of total income through output appropriation.

The increase of \$33.3 million in current grants and subsidies revenue in 2014-15 over 2013-14 is primarily due to payment bought forward by the Australian Government for the first two instalments of the Northern Territory's 2015-16 Financial Assistance and Road Grants. Sales of goods and services of \$3 million recorded in 2014-15 predominantly relate to the charging of rates and is line with budget. In 2013-14 the sale of goods and services recorded were higher when compared to 2014-15 due to one off funding received for the Asbestos Removal Program.

### 2014-15 Operating Income - by source \$000



Operating Expenses					
	2014-15 Original Budget	2014-15 Actual	2013-14 Actual	Variation between years	
	\$000	<b>\$000</b>	\$000	\$000	%
Employee expenses	18 942	<b>21 287</b>	18 457	2 830	15
Administrative expenses					
Purchase of goods and services	12 140	<b>8 319</b>	10 570	(2 251)	(21)
Repairs and maintenance	-	<b>1</b>	44	(43)	(98)
Depreciation and amortisation	-	<b>17</b>	17	-	-
Other administrative expenses	1 100	<b>2 786</b>	1 179	1 607	136
Grants and subsidies					
Current grants	179 008	<b>195 219</b>	138 702	56 517	41
Capital grants	28 573	<b>25 479</b>	26 185	(706)	(3)

Total operating expenses is \$253.1 million which predominantly consists of current and capital grants expenditure (a combined 87% of total expenditure) with employee expenses making up 8 per cent of the department's total operating expenses.

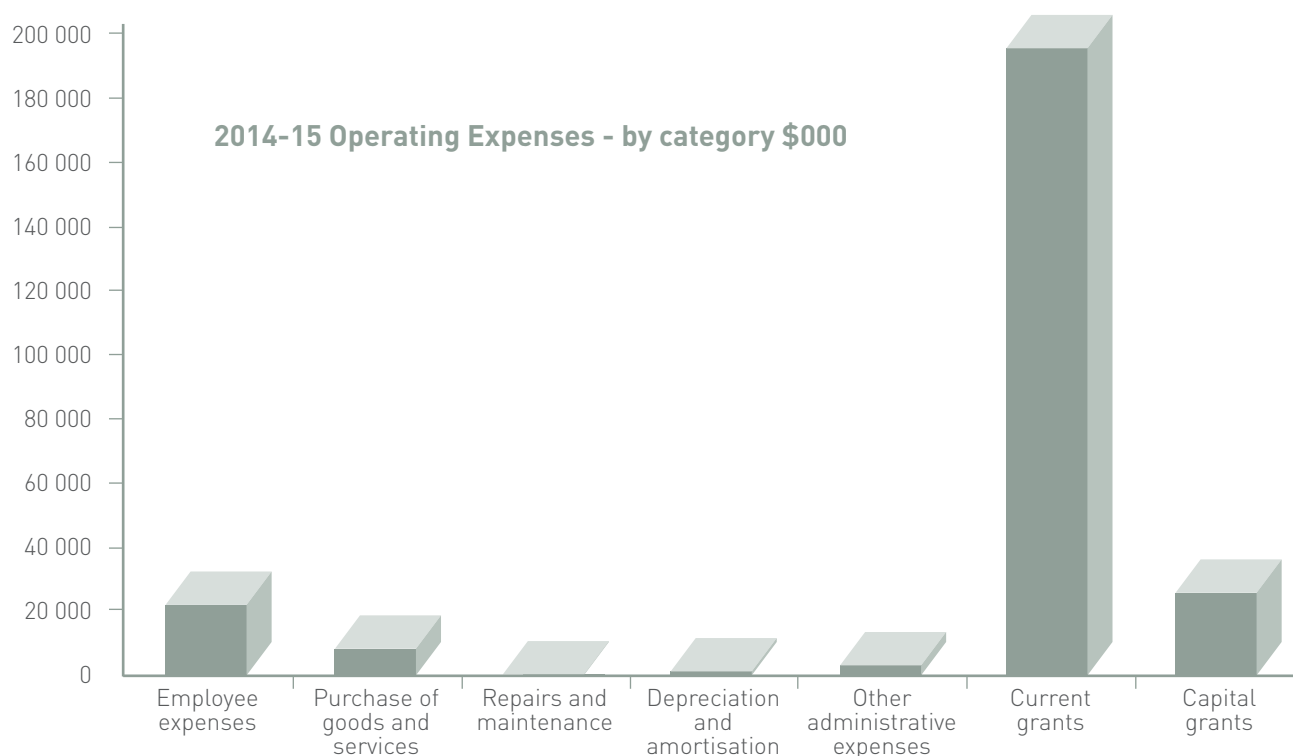
The 2014-15 financial year saw an increase in employee expenses of \$2.8 million. This is in line with wages growth and additional personnel transferred to the department from other government agencies during the financial year. The increase in employee expenses is offset by a decrease in purchase of goods and services as the service level agreement with Department of Housing ceased and staff within the shared services arrangement transferred to this department for the establishment of a Business Services unit. This is consistent with the budget forecast as the transfer took place after the development of the 2014-15 budget. The increase in other administrative expenses largely relates to the services provided by the Department of Corporate and Information Services, free of charge and is only a notional expense.

Grants and Subsidies of \$220.7 million makes up 87 per cent of total operating expenses for the department. The 2014-15 grant expenditure shows an increase of \$56 million when compared to 2013-14. Explanations of the significant difference between years are as follows:

- Recurrent grant expenses for 2013-14 for local government were pre-paid in the prior year (2012-13), hence reducing the level of the 2013-14 grants expenditure compared to 2014-15. These prepayments included \$11 million of NT Operation Subsidy for local government councils and \$16.5 million pre-payment of the 2013-14 Local Government Financial Assistance Grants.
- \$5.3 million net increase of grants paid for remote infrastructure programs which include the Ilpeye Ilpeye subdivision project and the asbestos removal program plus a \$1.8 million increase in grants to Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd.
- \$8.5million increase in various grants for homelands, outstations and town camps.

- \$8.8 million increase in grant expenditure on Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements in 2014-15.
- \$5 million relates to additional funding in 2014-15 for the financial sustainability of regional councils and the Territory Connect Program.

The above expenditure on grants are largely items provided for in the 2014-15 budget with the exception of \$8.8 million relating to Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements.



### Balance Sheet - Summary

	2014-15 Original Budget	2014-15 Actual	2013-14 Actual	Variation	
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
Assets	15 974	<b>40 167</b>	42 062	(1 895)	(5)
Liabilities	6 450	<b>4 961</b>	4 471	490	11
Equity	9 524	<b>35 206</b>	37 591	(2 385)	(6)

The slight decrease in assets between years is due to a decrease in cash balances as a result of increased payments of grants in 2014-15. However, compared to the 2014-15 budget, assets have increased by \$24.3 million due to increase in cash and deposits largely reflecting the revised timing of Australian Government funded programs and the receipt of the first two instalments of the Northern Territory 2015-16 local government Financial Assistance Grant allocation bought forward to June 2015.

The slight increase in liabilities is largely due to increased employee provisions.



### Statement of Changes in Equity - Summary

	2014-15	2013-14	Variation	
	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
Balance of Equity at 1 July	<b>37 591</b>	30 157	7 434	25
Accumulated Funds	<b>(1 734)</b>	493	(2 227)	(452)
Capital	<b>36 940</b>	37 098	(158)	-
Balance of Equity at 30 June	<b>35 206</b>	37 591	(2 385)	(6)

The change in equity is the reported \$2.2 million deficit plus \$0.159 million relating the employee provisions associated with the transfer of staff from Department of Housing.

### Statement of Cash Flows - Summary

	2014-15 Original Budget	2014-15 Actual	2013-14 Actual	Variation	
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
Cash at beginning of the reporting period	15 527	<b>36 148</b>	28 243	7 905	28
Receipts	230 653	<b>260 224</b>	214 206	46 018	21
Payments	(238 663)	<b>(263 384)</b>	(205 611)	(57 773)	28
Investing receipts	-	-	333	(333)	(100)
Financing receipts	-	<b>40</b>	(1 579)	1 619	(103)
Equity Withdrawals / Injections	-	<b>(159)</b>	556	(715)	(129)
Cash at end of the reporting period	7 517	<b>32 869</b>	36 148	(3 279)	(9)

The cash at the end of the reporting period was slightly reduced due to increased payments of grants in 2014-15.

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# FINANCIAL REPORT

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## DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Local Government and Community Services have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2015 and the financial position on that date.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



MIKE CHIODO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

28 August 2015



WATI KERTA

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

28 August 2015

## COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current		71 270	37 978
Capital		3 930	7 000
Appropriation			
Output		143 658	128 532
Commonwealth		25 060	19 744
Sales of goods and services		3 018	7 477
Goods and services received free of charge	4	2 727	1 155
Other income		1 218	90
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>250 881</b>	<b>201 976</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee expenses		21 287	18 457
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	5	8 319	10 570
Repairs and maintenance		1	44
Depreciation and amortisation	8	17	17
Other administrative expenses		2 786	1 179
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current		195 219	138 702
Capital		25 479	26 185
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>253 108</b>	<b>195 154</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(2 227)</b>	<b>6 822</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
		-	-
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>		<b>(2 227)</b>	<b>6 822</b>

*The Comprehensive Operating Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.*

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6	32 869	36 148
Receivables	7	2 971	1 440
Advances		667	667
Prepayments		49	58
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>36 556</b>	<b>38 313</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8	3 611	3 749
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>3 611</b>	<b>3 749</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>40 167</b>	<b>42 062</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Deposits held in Trust	12	1 703	1 663
Payables	10	752	527
Provisions	11	1 920	1 729
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4 375</b>	<b>3 919</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Non- Current Recreation Leave provision	11	586	552
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>586</b>	<b>552</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>4 961</b>	<b>4 471</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>35 206</b>	<b>37 591</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Capital		35 135	35 293
Asset revaluation surplus	13	1 805	1 805
Accumulated funds		(1 734)	493
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>35 206</b>	<b>37 591</b>

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive result	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2014-15</b>					
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		493	(2 227)	-	(1 734)
		493	(2 227)	-	(1 734)
<b>Asset revaluation surplus</b>	13	1 805	-	-	1 805
<b>Capital – Transactions with Owners</b>					
Equity injections					
Equity transfers in		5 846	-	-	5 846
Other equity injections		39 176	-	-	39 176
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(6895)	-	(159)	(7 054)
Equity transfers Out		(2834)	-	1	(2 833)
		37 098	-	(158)	36 940
<b>Total Equity at End of Financial Year</b>		<b>37 591</b>	<b>(2 227)</b>	<b>(158)</b>	<b>35 206</b>
<b>2013-14</b>					
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		(6 329)	6 822	-	493
		(6 329)	6 822	-	493
<b>Asset revaluation surplus</b>	13	1 805	-	-	1 805
<b>Capital – Transactions with Owners</b>					
Equity injections					
Equity transfers in		5 790	-	56	5 846
Other equity injections		38 620	-	556	39 176
Capital withdrawal		(6 895)	-	-	(6 895)
Equity transfers Out		(2 834)	-	-	(2 834)
		36 486	-	612	37 098
<b>Total Equity at End of Financial Year</b>		<b>30 157</b>	<b>6 822</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>37 591</b>

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Operating Receipts</b>			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		71 270	37 978
Capital		3 930	7 000
Appropriation			
Output		143 658	128 532
Commonwealth		25 060	19 744
Receipts from sales of goods and services		16 306	20 952
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>		<b>260 224</b>	<b>214 206</b>
<b>Operating Payments</b>			
Payments to employees		(21 061)	(18 778)
Payments for goods and services		(21 625)	(21 945)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(195 219)	(138 702)
Capital		(25 479)	(26 186)
<b>Total Operating Payments</b>		<b>(263 384)</b>	<b>(205 611)</b>
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(3 160)</b>	<b>8 595</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Investing Receipts</b>			
Repayment of advances		-	333
<b>Total Investing Receipts</b>		-	333
<b>Investing Payments</b>			
<b>Total Investing Payments</b>		-	-
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Investing Activities</b>		-	333
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Financing Receipts</b>			
Deposits received/(paid)		40	(1 579)
Equity injections		-	556
<b>Total Financing Receipts</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>(1 023)</b>
<b>Financing Payments</b>			
Equity withdrawals		(159)	-
<b>Total Financing Payments</b>		<b>(159)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Financing Activities</b>		<b>(119)</b>	<b>(1 023)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(3 279)	7 905
Cash at beginning of financial year		36 148	28 243
<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32 869</b>	<b>36 148</b>

The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

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## 1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Department of Local Government and Community Services' role is to:

- lead whole of government implementation of services delivered under the Stronger Futures and Remote Services Delivery National Partnership Agreements;
- coordinate whole of government Indigenous policy;
- build regional economies through enterprise development, job creation and infrastructure investment;
- provide interpreting and translating services to improve access to services for all Territorians;
- develop and regulate local governments in the Northern Territory and the enforcement and administration of the *Local Government Act*; and
- help improve local government performance and sustainability;

Additional information in relation to the Department of Local Government and Community Services and its principal activities may be found throughout the Annual Report.

The Department is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on, the receipt of parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the agency controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the agency are summarised into several output groups. Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of a Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group.

## 2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the Department of Local Government and Community Services to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of agency financial statements is to include:

- a Certification of the Financial Statements;
- a Comprehensive Operating Statement;
- a Balance Sheet;
- a Statement of Changes in Equity;
- a Cash Flow Statement; and
- applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra-agency transactions and balances have been eliminated.



Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The form of the agency financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated. The Standards and Interpretations and their impacts are:

**AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements, AASB 2013-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities – Control and Structured Entities**

AASB 10 requires a parent to present consolidated financial statements as those of a single economic entity, replacing the requirements previously contained in AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 11 Joint Arrangements**

AASB 11 replaces AASB 131 *Interests in Joint Ventures*. It requires a party to a joint arrangement to determine the type of joint arrangement in which it is involved by assessing its rights and obligations, and then account for those rights and obligations in accordance with that type of joint arrangement. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 12 Disclosure of Interests in other Entities, AASB 2013-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities – Control and Structured Entities**

AASB 12 requires the extensive disclosure of information that enables users of financial statements to evaluate the nature of, and risks associated with, interests in other entities and the effects of those interests on its financial position, financial performance and cash flows. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 1031 Materiality (2013), AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments, AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part C – Materiality)**

Revised AASB 1031 is an interim standard that cross-references to other standards and the *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* that contain guidance on materiality. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting**

AASB 1055 sets out budgetary reporting requirements for not-for-profit entities within the General Government Sector. The required disclosures comprise a separate note accompanying the financial statements.

**AASB 2012-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132]**

The standard addresses inconsistencies in current practice when applying the offsetting criteria in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 2013-3 Amendments to AASB 136 – Recoverable Amount Disclosures for Non-Financial Assets**

The amendments to AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* address the disclosure of information about the recoverable amount of impaired assets if that amount is based on fair value less costs of disposal. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part A – Annual Improvements 2010-2012 and 2011-2013 Cycles)**

Part A of the standard makes amendments to various Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 2, 3, 8, 9, 13, 116, 119, 124, 137, 138, 139, 140 & 1052 and Interpretation 129) arising from the issuance by IASB of *IFRSs Annual Improvements to IFRS 2010-2012 Cycle and Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2011-2013 Cycle*. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

## b. Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations Issued but not yet Effective

At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the Standards and Interpretations listed below were in issue but not yet effective.

Standard/ Interpretation	Summary	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments (Dec 2014)</i> , AASB 2014-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part E – Financial Instruments)</i> , AASB 2014-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (Dec 2014)</i>	The final version of AASB 9 brings together the classification and measurement, impairment and hedge accounting phases of the IASB's project to replace AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> . This version adds a new expected loss impairment model and limited amendments to classification and measurement for financial assets.	1 Jan 2018	Not expected to have a material impact on future reporting periods
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i> , AASB 2014-5 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</i>	AASB 15 outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers. It replaces several Standards and Interpretations, including AASB 111 <i>Construction Contracts</i> , AASB 118 <i>Revenue</i> , Interpretation 15 <i>Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate</i> , and Interpretation 18 <i>Transfers of Assets from Customers</i> .	1 Jan 2017	Not expected to have a material impact on future reporting periods

AASB 2014-4 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 &amp; 138]</i>	Amends AASB 116 <i>Property, Plant and Equipment</i> and AASB 138 <i>Intangible Assets</i> to provide additional guidance on how the depreciation or amortisation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets should be calculated.	1 Jan 2016	Not expected to have a material impact on future reporting periods
AASB 2015-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 &amp; 140]</i>	Amends a number of pronouncements as a result of the IASB's 2012-2014 annual improvements cycle.	1 Jan 2016	Not expected to have a material impact on future reporting periods
AASB 2015-2 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 &amp; 1049]</i>	Includes narrow-focus amendments to address concerns about existing presentation and disclosure requirements, and to ensure entities are able to use judgement when applying a standard in determining what information to disclose.	1 Jan 2016	Not expected to have a material impact on future reporting periods
AASB 2015-6 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 &amp; 1049]</i>	Extends the scope of AASB 124 <i>Related Party Disclosures</i> to not-for-profit public sector entities.	1 July 2016	Not expected to have a material impact on future reporting periods



### c. Agency and Territory Items

The financial statements of the Department of Local Government and Community Services include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the Department has control (Agency items). Certain items, while managed by the agency, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the agency (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded in the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

#### Central Holding Authority

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the Government's ownership interest in Government-controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the Government and managed by agencies on behalf of the Government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the agency's financial statements. The Department of Local Government and Community Services does not collect any Territory items on behalf of the Central Holding Authority.

### d. Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2013-14 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

### e. Presentation and Rounding of Amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero.

### f. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2014-15 as a result of management decisions.

### g. Accounting Judgments and Estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. Notes that include significant judgments and estimates are:

- Employee Benefits – Note 2(s) and Note 11: Non-current liabilities in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Allowance for Impairment Losses – Note 2(p), Note 7: Receivables and Note 15: Financial Instruments. The allowance represents debts that are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Debtors are grouped according to their aging profile and history of previous financial difficulties.

## **h. Goods and Services Tax**

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

## **i. Income Recognition**

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of GST. Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

### **Grants and Other Contributions**

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

## Appropriation

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of agency outputs after taking into account funding from agency income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, resulting in Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) and National Partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then onpassed to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the agency gains control of the funds.

## Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when:

- the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer;
- the agency retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured;
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the agency; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

## Rendering of Services

Revenue from rendering services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

## Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

## Goods and Services Received Free of Charge

Goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when a fair value can be reliably determined and the resource would have been purchased if it had not been donated. Use of the resource is recognised as an expense.

## Disposal of Assets

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal.

## Contributions of Assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being nonreciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when the agency obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

### j. Repairs and Maintenance Expense

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with agency assets as part of output revenue. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on agency assets are expensed as incurred.

### k. Depreciation and Amortisation Expense

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2015	2014
Leased Plant and Equipment	10 years	10 years

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

### l. Interest Expense

Interest expenses include interest and finance lease charges. Interest expenses are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

### m. Cash and Deposits

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash. Cash at bank includes monies held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to Note 19.



## n. Receivables

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analyses of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 15 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

All receivables are generally settled within 30 days.

## o. Property, Plant and Equipment

### Acquisitions

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$10 000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10 000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

### Complex Assets

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

### Subsequent Additional Costs

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the agency in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

### Construction (Work in Progress)

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for all agency capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the agency.

## p. Revaluations and Impairment

### Revaluation of Assets

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- land

Leased property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

### Impairment of Assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible agency assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the agency determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 13 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

## q. Leased Assets

Leases under which the agency assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

### Finance Leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

## Operating Leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property. Lease incentives under an operating lease of a building or office space is recognised as an integral part of the consideration for the use of the leased asset. Lease incentives are to be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

## r. Payables

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

## s. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the Government long-term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements; and
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government agencies, including the Department of Local Government and Community Services and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

## t. Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS);
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS); or
- non-government employee-nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The agency makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee-nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in agency financial statements.

#### u. Contributions by and Distributions to Government

The agency may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the agency. Conversely, the agency may make distributions to Government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, Government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the agency as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

#### v. Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments are shown at Note 16.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

#### w. Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial assets and liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the agency becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The agency's financial instruments include cash and deposits; receivables; advances; payables and deposits held in trust.

Note 15 provides additional information on financial instruments.

#### x. Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.



Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the agency include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal agency adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

- Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 – inputs are unobservable.

## 3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP

	Regional Services		Language Services		Strategy and Community Development	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>INCOME</b>						
Grants and subsidies						
Current	19 626	19 675	1 577	1 870	354	-
Capital	3 930	7 000	-	-	-	-
Appropriation						
Output	81 885	77 487	1 512	2 594	3 774	2 365
Commonwealth	20 879	15 380	3 857	3 900	324	314
Sales of goods and services	-	4 391	1 026	1 196	-	230
Goods and services received free of charge	545	167	273	657	545	107
Other income	629	84	3	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>127 494</b>	<b>124 184</b>	<b>8 248</b>	<b>10 217</b>	<b>4 997</b>	<b>3 016</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Employee Expenses	3 680	3 711	6 961	6 989	2 293	2 014
Administrative Expenses						
Purchases of Goods and Services	2 221	2 599	2 220	2 571	943	826
Repairs & Maintenance	-	39	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	-	-	-	16	-	-
Other Administrative Expenses	546	183	273	657	545	107
Grants and Subsidies						
Current	101 142	87 304	-	-	837	69
Capital	25 463	23 636	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>133 052</b>	<b>117 472</b>	<b>9 454</b>	<b>10 233</b>	<b>4 618</b>	<b>3 016</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(5 558)</b>	<b>6 712</b>	<b>(1 206)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>	<b>(5 558)</b>	<b>6 712</b>	<b>(1 206)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>-</b>

### 3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP (cont.)

	Local Government and Regions		Office of Aboriginal Affairs		Corporate and Governance		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>INCOME</b>								
Grants and subsidies								
Current	49 713	16 433	-	-	-	-	71 270	37 978
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 930	7 000
Appropriation								
Output	51 390	42 478	2 461	77	2 636	3 531	143 658	128 532
Commonwealth	-	150	-	-	-	-	25 060	19 744
Sales of goods and services	1 815	1 599	100	-	77	61	3 018	7 477
Goods and services received free of charge	819	224	545	-	-	-	2 727	1 155
Other income	568	-	-	-	18	6	1 218	90
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>104 305</b>	<b>60 884</b>	<b>3 106</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2 731</b>	<b>3 598</b>	<b>250 881</b>	<b>201 976</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Employee Expenses	4 600	5 064	1 393	74	2 360	605	21 287	18 457
Administrative Expenses								
Purchases of Goods and Services	1 991	1 598	370	3	574	2 973	8 319	10 570
Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	44
Depreciation and Amortisation	-	-	-	-	17	-	17	16
Other Administrative Expenses	818	224	545	-	59	9	2 786	1 180
Grants and Subsidies								
Current	93 040	51 329	200	-	-	-	195 219	138 702
Capital	16	2 549	-	-	-	-	25 479	26 185
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>100 465</b>	<b>60 764</b>	<b>2 508</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3 011</b>	<b>3 592</b>	<b>253 108</b>	<b>195 154</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>3 840</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(280)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(2 227)</b>	<b>6 822</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>	<b>3 840</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(280)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(2 227)</b>	<b>6 822</b>

*This Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.*

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
<b>4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE</b>		
Corporate and information services	2 727	1 155
	<b>2 727</b>	<b>1 155</b>
<b>5. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES</b>		
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
<b>Goods and services expenses:</b>		
Consultants (1)	723	1 324
Advertising (2)	21	6
Marketing and promotion (3)	140	97
Document production	56	25
Legal expenses (4)	694	130
Recruitment (5)	35	42
Training and study	160	148
Official duty fares	594	515
Travelling allowance	242	218
Agent service arrangements	597	2 926
Motor vehicle expenses	697	702
Goods and services free of Charge	2 727	1 155
Other Operational Expenses	1 633	3 282
	<b>8 319</b>	<b>10 570</b>
<sup>1</sup> Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.		
<sup>2</sup> Does not include recruitment, advertising or marketing and promotion advertising.		
<sup>3</sup> Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.		
<sup>4</sup> Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs.		
<sup>5</sup> Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.		
<b>6. CASH AND DEPOSITS</b>		
Cash on hand	1	1
Cash at bank	32 868	36 147
	<b>32 869</b>	<b>36 148</b>

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
<b>7. RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts receivable	425	262
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	-	(63)
	425	199
GST receivables	2 540	1 241
Other receivables	6	-
	2 546	1 241
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>2 971</b>	<b>1 440</b>
<b>8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Land</b>		
At fair value	3 599	3 599
<b>Leased Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
At capitalised cost	42	174
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(30)	(24)
	12	150
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>3 611</b>	<b>3 749</b>

	Land	Leased Property, Plant and Equipment	Total
<b>2015 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations</b>			
A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2014-15 is set out below:			
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2014	3 599	150	3 749
Depreciation	-	(17)	(17)
Impairment losses	-	(121)	(121)
<b>Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>3 599</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3 611</b>

#### 2014 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2013-14 is set out below:

	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2013	3 599	155	3 754
Depreciation	-	(17)	(17)
Additions from asset transfers	-	12	12
<b>Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>3 599</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>3 749</b>



## 9. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

### a. Fair Value Hierarchy

Fair values of non-financial assets categorised by levels of inputs used to compute fair value are:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Fair Value
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2014-15</b>				
<b>Asset Classes</b>				
Land (Note 8)	-	3 599	-	3 599
Leased Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3 599</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3 611</b>
<b>2013-14</b>				
<b>Asset Classes</b>				
Land (Note 8)	-	3 599	-	3 599
Leased Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-	150	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3 599</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>3 749</b>

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during 2014-15.

### b. Valuation Techniques and Inputs

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value in 2014-15 are:

	Level 2 Techniques	Level 3 Techniques
<b>Asset Classes</b>		
Land	Cost	-
Leased Property, Plant and Equipment	-	Cost

There were no changes in valuation techniques from 2013-14 to 2014-15.

The Australian Valuation Office has provided valuations for the land.

### c. Additional Information for Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

#### (i) Reconciliation of Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

	Leased Property, Plant and Equipment
	\$000
<b>2014-15</b>	
Fair value as at 1 July 2014	150
Impairment/ Disposals	(121)
Depreciation	(17)
<b>Fair value as at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	
Fair value as at 1 July 2013	155
Additions	12
Depreciation	(17)
<b>Fair value as at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>150</b>

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
<b>10. PAYABLES</b>		
Accounts payable	47	92
Accrued expenses	705	435
<b>Total Payables</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>527</b>
<b>11. PROVISIONS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	1 285	1 173
Leave loading	257	220
Recreation Leave Fares	25	23
<i>Other current provisions</i>		
Provision for Fringe Benefit Tax	26	97
Provision for Payroll Tax	148	57
Provision for Employer Super Contribution	179	159
Total Current Provisions	1 920	1 729
<b>Non-Current</b>		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	586	551
Total Non-Current Provisions	586	551
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>2 506</b>	<b>2 280</b>

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
<b>12. OTHER LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Deposits Held in Trust	1 703	1 663
<b>Total Other Liabilities</b>	<b>1 703</b>	<b>1 663</b>
<b>13. RESERVES</b>		
<b>Asset Revaluation Surplus</b>		
<i>(i) Nature and purpose of the asset revaluation surplus</i>		
The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.		
<i>(ii) Movements in the asset revaluation surplus</i>		
Balance as at 1 July	1 805	1 805
<b>Balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>1 805</b>	<b>1 805</b>
<b>14. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
The total of agency Cash and deposits of \$32,869 Million recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.		
<b>Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) to Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>		
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	(2 227)	6 822
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	17	17
Asset write-offs/write-downs	121	-
R&M - Minor New Work Non Cash	1	44
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	(1 532)	2 197
Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments	9	7
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	225	(160)
(Decrease)/Increase in provision for employee benefits	187	(297)
(Decrease)/Increase in provision for FBT, Payroll Tax & Super	39	(35)
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(3 160)</b>	<b>8 595</b>

## 15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the Department of Local Government and Community Services include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and advances. The Department of Local Government and Community Services has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

### a. Categorisation of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the agency's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash and deposits	32 869	36 148
Advances	667	667
Receivables	2 971	1 440
Prepayments	49	58
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
Deposits held in Trust	1 703	1 663
Payables	752	527
Provisions	2 506	2 280

## b. Credit Risk

The agency has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the agency has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the agency's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

### Receivables

Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. A reconciliation and aging analysis of receivables is presented below.

	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Internal Receivables</b>			
<b>2014-15</b>			
Not overdue	-	-	-
Overdue for less than 30 days	7	-	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2013-14</b>			
Not overdue	173	-	173
Overdue for more than 60 days	10	-	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>External Receivables</b>			
<b>2014-15</b>			
Not overdue	2 871	-	2 871
Overdue for less than 30 days	12	-	12
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	3	-	3
Overdue for more than 60 days	78	-	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 964</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 964</b>
<b>2013-14</b>			
Not overdue	1 257	-	1 257
Overdue for more than 60 days	63	63	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 320</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1 257</b>
<b>Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses</b>			
Opening		63	
Written off during the year		-	
Recovered during the year		63	
<b>Total</b>		<b>-</b>	



### c. Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The agency's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities. It should be noted that these values are undiscounted and consequently totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Balance Sheet.

#### 2015 Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities

	Interest Bearing Variable			Non Interest Bearing	Total
	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years		
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2015</b>					
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	-	-	-	32 869	32 869
Receivables	-	-	-	2 971	2 971
Advances	-	-	-	667	667
Prepayments	-	-	-	49	49
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36 556</b>	<b>36 556</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Deposits held	-	1 703	-	-	1 703
Payables	-	-	-	752	752
Provisions	-	-	-	2 506	2 506
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 703</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3 258</b>	<b>4 961</b>
<b>2014</b>					
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	-	-	-	36 148	36 148
Receivables	-	-	-	1 440	1 440
Advances	-	-	-	667	667
Prepayments	-	-	-	58	58
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38 313</b>	<b>38 313</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Deposits held	-	1 663	-	-	1 663
Payables	-	-	-	527	527
Provisions	-	-	-	2 280	2 280
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 663</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 807</b>	<b>4 470</b>

## d. Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

### (i) Interest Rate Risk

The Department of Local Government and Community Services is not exposed to interest rate risk as its financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing. Therefore marketing sensitivity is not required.

### (ii) Price Risk

The Department of Local Government and Community Services is not exposed to price risk as the department does not hold units in unit trusts.

### (iii) Currency Risk

The Department of Local Government and Community Services is not exposed < to currency risk as the department does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

## e. Net Fair Value

The fair value of financial instruments is estimated using various methods. These methods are classified into the following levels:

Level 1 - derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 - derived from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable directly or indirectly.

Level 3 - derived from inputs not based on observable market data.

The fair value of financial instruments is determined on the following basis:

- the fair value of cash, deposits, advances, receivables and payables approximates their carrying amount, which is also their amortised cost;

Fair values of financial instruments categorised by level of inputs used to measure fair value are as shown in the following table:

	Total Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value Level 1	Net Fair Value Level 2	Net Fair Value Level 3	Net Fair Value Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2015</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	32 869	32 869	-	-	32 869
Receivables	2 971	2 971	-	-	2 971
Advances	667	667	-	-	667
Prepayments	49	49	-	-	49
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>36 556</b>	<b>36 556</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36 556</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Deposits held	1 703	1 703	-	-	1 703
Payables	752	752	-	-	752
Provisions for Employee Benefits	2 506	2 506	-	-	2 506
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>4 961</b>	<b>4 961</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4 961</b>
<b>2014</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	36 148	36 148	-	-	36 148
Receivables	1 440	1 440	-	-	1 440
Advances	667	667	-	-	667
Prepayments	58	58	-	-	58
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>38 313</b>	<b>38 313</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38 313</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Deposits held	1 663	1 663	-	-	1 663
Payables	527	527	-	-	527
Provisions for Employee Benefits	2 280	2 280	-	-	2 280
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>4 470</b>	<b>4 470</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4 470</b>

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

## 16. COMMITMENTS

	2015		2014	
	Internal <sup>(a)</sup>	External <sup>(a)</sup>	Internal	External
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>(ii) Capital Expenditure Commitments</b>				
Capital expenditure commitments primarily related to the construction of Capital expenditure commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows <sup>(a)</sup> :				
Within one year				
Later than one year and not later than five years				
Later than five years				
<b>(iii) Operating Lease Commitments</b>				
The agency leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring from 1 to 5 years. Leases generally provide the agency with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The agency also leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	302		70	
Later than one year and not later than five years	381		468	
Later than five years				
	<b>683</b>		<b>538</b>	
<b>(iii) Other Expenditure Commitments</b>				
Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	34 372		24 517	
Later than one year and not later than five years	939			
Later than five years				
	<b>35 311</b>		<b>24 517</b>	

<sup>(a)</sup> Internal commitments are to entities controlled by the NTG (entities listed in TAFR 2013-14 Note 41: Details of Controlled Entities at Reporting Date), whereas external commitments are to third parties external to the NTG.

## 17. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Department of Local Government and Community Services had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2015 or 30 June 2014.

## 18. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

## 19. ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S TRUST ACCOUNT

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

Nature of Trust Money	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance
	1 July 2014			30 June 2015
Jabiru Town Development Authority	1 663	40	-	1 703
	<b>1 663</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 703</b>

## 20. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS

	Agency		Agency		Territory Items		Territory Items	
	2015	No. of Trans.	2014	No. of Trans.	2015	No. of Trans.	2014	No. of Trans.
	\$000		\$000		\$000		\$000	
<b>Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the Financial Management Act</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Represented by:								
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer</i>								
Public property written off	121	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by the Treasurer</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-



## 21. SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

The Department of Local Government and Community Services does not collect any Territory items on behalf of the Central Holding Authority.

## 22. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Comprehensive Operating Statement	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	71 270	58 151	13 119	(1)
Capital	3 930	2 430	1 500	(1)
Appropriation				
Output	143 658	142 091	1 567	
Commonwealth	25 060	25 024	36	
Sales of goods and services	3 018	2 957	61	
Goods and services received free of charge	2 727	1 100	1 627	
Other income	1 218	-	1 218	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>250 881</b>	<b>231 753</b>	<b>19 128</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Employee expenses	21 287	18 942	2 345	(2)
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	8 319	12 140	(3 821)	(3)
Repairs and maintenance	1	-	1	
Depreciation and amortisation	17	-	17	
Other administrative expenses	2 786	1 100	1 686	
Grants and subsidies expenses				
Current	195 219	179 008	16 211	(4)
Capital	25 479	28 573	(3 094)	(5)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>253 108</b>	<b>239 763</b>	<b>13 345</b>	
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(2 227)</b>	<b>(8 010)</b>	<b>5 783</b>	
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>	<b>(2 227)</b>	<b>(8 010)</b>	<b>5 783</b>	

## 22. BUDGETARY INFORMATION (cont.)

**Notes:**

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

- (1) Current and Capital grants increased by \$14.6 million from the May 2014 Budget reflects:
  - Increased Commonwealth funding for the first two instalments of the Northern Territory 2015-16 local government Financial Assistance Grant allocation bought forward to June 2015.
  - Increased Commonwealth funding of \$1.5 million for the Galiwinku sewerage upgrade.
- (2) Employee expenses have increased by \$2.4 million largely in line with revised timing of expenditure commitments relating to Commonwealth funded programs.
- (3) Purchases of goods and services expenses have decreased by \$3.8 million as a result of revised timing of expenditure commitments relating to Commonwealth funded programs.
- (4) Current grants have increased by \$16.2 million from originally anticipated due to payments made for Natural Disaster Relief, combined with the revised timing of expenditure commitments across years.
- (5) Capital grants have decreased by \$3.1 million due to the revised timing of expenditure commitments relating to the Ilpeye Ilpeye Project across years.

## 22. BUDGETARY INFORMATION (cont.)

	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Original Budget	Variance	Note
<b>Balance Sheet</b>				
	<b>\$000</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>\$000</b>	
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash and deposits	32 869	7 517	25 352	(1)
Receivables	2 971	3 637	(666)	
Advances and investments	667	1 000	(333)	
Prepayments	49	65	49	
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>36 556</b>	<b>12 219</b>	<b>24 402</b>	
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
Property, plant and equipment	3 611	3 755	(144)	
Intangibles				
Prepayments				
Other assets				
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>3 611</b>	<b>3 755</b>	<b>(144)</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>40 167</b>	<b>15 974</b>	<b>24 258</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Deposits held in Trust	1 703	3 243	(1 540)	(2)
Payables	752	670	82	
Provisions	1 920	1 860	60	
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>4 375</b>	<b>5 773</b>	<b>(1 398)</b>	
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>				
Non- Current Recreation Leave provision	586	677	(91)	
Total non-current liabilities	586	677	(91)	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4 961</b>	<b>6 450</b>	<b>(1 489)</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>35 206</b>	<b>9 524</b>	<b>25 747</b>	
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Capital	35 135	34 773	362	
Asset revaluation surplus	1 805	1 805	-	
Accumulated funds	(1 734)	(27 054)	25 320	
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>35 206</b>	<b>9 524</b>	<b>25 682</b>	

## 22. BUDGETARY INFORMATION (cont.)

**Notes:**

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

- (1) The increased in cash and deposits largely reflects the revised timing of Commonwealth funded programs and the receipt of the first two instalments of the Northern Territory 2015-16 local government Financial Assistance Grant allocation bought forward to June 2015.
- (2) Deposits held have decreased by \$1.5 million due to lower cash balances held on trust by the department.

## 22. BUDGETARY INFORMATION (cont.)

Cash Flow Statement	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Operating receipts</b>				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	71 270	58 151	13 119	(1)
Capital	3 930	2 430	1 500	(1)
Appropriation				
Output	143 658	142 091	1 567	
Commonwealth	25 060	25 024	36	
Receipts from sales of goods and services	16 306	2 957	13 349	(2)
<b>Total operating receipts</b>	<b>260 224</b>	<b>230 653</b>	<b>29 571</b>	
<b>Operating payments</b>				
Payments to employees	(21 061)	(18 942)	(2 119)	(3)
Payments for goods and services	(21 625)	(12 140)	(9 485)	(4)
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	(195 219)	(179 008)	(16 211)	(5)
Capital	(25 479)	(28 573)	3 094	(6)
<b>Total operating payments</b>	<b>(263 384)</b>	<b>(238 663)</b>	<b>(24 721)</b>	
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(3 160)</b>	<b>(8 010)</b>	<b>4 850</b>	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Total investing receipts</b>	-	-	-	
<b>Total investing payments</b>	-	-	-	
<b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b>	-	-	-	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Financing receipts</b>				
Deposits received	40	-	40	
Total financing receipts	40	-	40	
<b>Financing payments</b>				
Equity withdrawals	(159)	-	(159)	
<b>Total financing payments</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(159)</b>	
<b>Net cash from/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(119)</b>	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(3 279)	(8 010)	4 731	
Cash at beginning of financial year	36 148	15 527	20 621	
<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>32 869</b>	<b>7 517</b>	<b>25 352</b>	



**Notes:**

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

- (1) Current and Capital grants increased by \$14.6 million from the May 2014 Budget reflects:
  - Increased Commonwealth funding for the first two instalments of the Northern Territory 2015-16 local government Financial Assistance Grant allocation bought forward to June 2015.
  - Increased Commonwealth funding of \$1.5 million for the Galiwinku sewerage upgrade.
- (2) Receipts from sales of goods and services increased by \$13.6 million largely due to GST revenue received in 2014-15.
- (3) Employee expenses have increased by \$2 million largely in line with revised timing of expenditure commitments relating to Commonwealth funded programs.
- (4) The net increase in payment for goods and services expenses of \$9.6 million predominantly relates to GST payments and the revised timing of expenditure commitments relating to Commonwealth funded programs.
- (5) Current grants paid have increased by \$16.2 million due to the combination of payment for Natural Disaster Relief and the revised timing of expenditure commitments.
- (6) Capital grants paid have decreased by \$3.1 million largely due to the revised timing of expenditure commitments relating to the Ilpeye Ilpeye Project across years.

# APPENDIX 1

P A R T

6

Discloses detailed  
information  
adjunct to the main  
report.



## Local Government Disciplinary Committee

### Members as at 30 June 2015

Names	Nominating body
Ms Gabrielle Martin Ms Ruth Brebner Andrew George Bruce Taylor David Baldry	Department of Attorney-General and Justice
Mr Iain Summers Steve Edgington Josephine McGill Darren Johnson Bruce Fyfe Cindy-Lee McDonald	Minister for Local Government and Community Services
Garry Lambert Damien Ryan Allan McKay Fay Miller Robert (Bob) Elix Chanston (Chansey) Paech Stuart Duncan Geoffrey Carter Judith Cole Peter Clee Ralph Blyth	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)

## Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee

### Members as at 30 June 2015

Names	Nominating body
Ms Meeta Ramkumar Ms Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters	Department of Local Government and Community Services
Mr Matthew Kennon Mr Lawrence Autencio	Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICA) CPA Australia
Ms Christine Kendrick Mr Marc Gardner	Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA)
Mr Miles Craighead Mr Greg Arnott	Northern Territory Finance Reference Group
Mr Muhammad Waqas Mr Tony Tapsell	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)

## Local Government (Administration and Legislation) Advisory Committee

### Members as at 30 June 2015

Names	Nominating body
Mr Allan McGill	Department of Local Government and Regions (DLGR)
Ms Lee Williams	Department of Local Government and Regions (DLGR)
Mr Tony Tapsell (Chair)	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)
Mrs Jeanette Anictomatis	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)
Mr Mark Blackburn	Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA)
Ms Cathryn Hutton	Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA)
Mr Derrick Tranter	Council Officer
Mr Ben Dornier	Council Officer

## Reserve trusts

### Members as at 30 June 2015

Names	Reserves
Stewart Alfred Adcock David Allan Cunningham Bradden Anthony Bellette (Chair) Harry Newton Cook Wulf Heimrich Kurt Pfau	Blatherskite Park Reserve
Elizabeth Anne Prell (Chair) James Andrew Cocking Helen Kilgariff Stephen Ross Morton Susan Mary Dugdale Geoffrey Brian Kenna Jeanette Gail Wormald	Olive Pink Botanic Garden Reserve
Joan Patricia Hassall Marguerite Helen Gayaso William Edward Josephs John McDonald McLaren (Chair) Bruce William Bremner	Robbie Robbins Reserve

## Grants Programs

### Local government grants programs

The Department of Local Government and Community Services provides grant funding assistance to eligible organisations, community groups and individuals through a number of funding programs.

#### Northern Territory Operational Subsidy

Grant recipients in 2014-15	
Council	Grant funding
	\$
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	1 255 472
Belyuen Community Government Council	70 626
Coomalie Community Government Council	477 351
Wagait Shire Council	143 551
West Arnhem Regional Council	3 082 323
East Arnhem Regional Council	5 479 862
Victoria Daly Regional Council	1 389 845
West Daly Regional Council	1 380 180
West Daly Regional Council – pre payment 2015-16	690 090
Roper Gulf Regional Council	3 457 527
Barkly Regional Council	3 567 006
Central Desert Regional Council	2 093 709
MacDonnell Regional Council	3 356 646
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26 444 188</b>



## Reserves and other organisations

These grants are provided to incorporated organisations that provide local government-type services for the benefit of the community.

Grant recipients in 2014–15		
Organisation	Brief description	Grant funding
		\$
<b>Katherine Town Council</b>	Operational funding for the community of Binjari	223 943
<b>Blatherskite Park Reserve</b>	Operational funding	145 000
<b>Daly Waters Progress Association</b>	Operational funding	8 963
<b>Jabiru Town Development Authority</b>	Operational funding	90 000
<b>Roper Gulf Regional Council</b>	Operational funding for the community of Larrimah	8 922
<b>Robbie Robins Reserve</b>	Operational funding	75 000
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	Local authority project funding for Tennant Creek	100 000
<b>Nhulunbuy Public Cemetery Trust</b>	Operational funding	10 000
<b>Roper Gulf Regional Council</b>	Operational funding for the Mataranka (Elseby Cemetery)	2 000
<b>Australia Day Council Inc. (NT)</b>	Towards the sponsorship of the 2014 Australia Day Awards	3 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$666 828</b>

## Special Purpose Grants

The pool for needs-based grants in 2014–15 totalled \$3 143 504. Funding is for specific purposes related to the needs of individual local government bodies and other community organisations. The focus of needs-based funding has been in the areas of training, recreation facilities, plant and equipment, social infrastructure and building (construction/renovations).

Grant recipients in 2014–15		
Council	Purpose	Grant funding
		\$
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	To supplement the Regional Development Australia Funds grant for the upgrading of Purkiss Park in Tennant Creek	250 000
<b>Nhulunbuy Public Cemetery Trust</b>	Beautification project at the Nhulunbuy public cemetery - includes removal of damaging plants	28 939
<b>Blatherskite Park Reserve</b>	Towards sewer upgrades which includes new pumps, circuit boards, failure relay switches and pumping out the existing pits at the reserve	40 000
<b>Central Desert Regional Council</b>	To purchase two skid steer loaders with trailers	114 500
<b>MacDonnell Regional Council</b>	To purchase two side loading five cubic metre refuse compactor Hino trucks	266 330
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	To purchase and install a two bedroom living facility for staff housing at Ampilatwatja	120 000
<b>West Arnhem Regional Council</b>	Towards the purchase a new dual axle tip truck	121 174
<b>Coomalie Community Government Council</b>	To construct an enclosed kitchen/servery at the Bruce Jones Community Centre	23 780
<b>Roper Gulf Regional Council</b>	Towards the cost of constructing a purpose built facility to accommodate council's civil works depot at Lot 1348 Chardon Street Katherine East.	500 000
<b>Alice Springs Town Council</b>	To purchase a cardboard and paper waste baler and a new shed to house it at the regional waste management facility	206 540
<b>MacDonnell Regional Council</b>	Towards infrastructure upgrades of grandstands and shade structures to six community ovals; Docker River, Haasts Bluff; Imanpa; Kintore; Mt Liebig; and Finke	80 520
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	To purchase a tractor with slasher for the community of Elliott	64 264

<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	To purchase a new eight cubic metre garbage compactor truck	160 000
<b>City of Darwin</b>	Towards the installation of a 24 hour public amenities facility in Darwin's Civic Park	100 000
<b>Belyuen Community Government Council</b>	To cover 2014-15 & 2015-16 Manager services fee	20 160
<b>Coomalie Community Government Council</b>	To purchase a Hino three tonne truck	53 800
<b>West Arnhem Regional Council</b>	Towards the purchase of a Caterpillar 953D track type loader/waster handler for the community of Maningrida	185 000
<b>Tiwi Islands Regional Council</b>	To purchase a D6R-2 Caterpillar dozer	225 000
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	To upgrade office equipment and furniture at the three service centres in the communities of Wadeye, Palumpa and Peppimenarti	117 049
<b>Central Desert Regional Council</b>	To purchase a backhoe for the community of Atitjere	102 000
<b>Belyuen Community Government Council</b>	To cover the cost of tree removal within the community	42 637
<b>Litchfield Council</b>	To replace the existing roof of the Howard Springs scout hall and towards internal refurbishments with some extra amenities	125 095
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	To install cattle grids at the main entrance to the Yarralin community	26 286
<b>West Arnhem Regional Council</b>	Towards the purchase of a heavy duty tri-axle tag trailer to transport machinery throughout the community	40 000
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	Additional funding to install a heavy duty cattle grid at Yarralin community and cemetery fencing	130 430
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3 143 504</b>

## Closing the Gap - Strengthening Local Authorities Funding

The total funding for Closing the Gap – Strengthening Local Authorities Funding is \$2 000 000. This program provided one-off funding in 2014-15 to assist regional councils with approved projects to strengthen activities related to local authorities.

### Grant recipients in 2014-15

Council	Grant funding
	\$
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	184 858
West Arnhem Regional Council	150 000
East Arnhem Regional Council	151 900
Victoria Daly Regional Council	110 000
West Daly Regional Council	195 918
Roper Gulf Regional Council	279 024
Barkly Regional Council	200 000
Central Desert Regional Council	435 000
MacDonnell Regional Council	293 300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2 000 000</b>

## Local Authority Project Funding

At the April 2014 Local Government Association of the Northern Territory meeting held in Katherine the Minister for Local Government announced the provision of an additional \$5 000 000 to support local authorities from 2014-15. The Tennant Creek funding of \$100 000 was sourced from the Reserves and Other Organisations Program and therefore is outside the \$5 000 000 program allocation.

Grant recipients in 2014-15		
Council	Community	Grant funding \$
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	Ali Curung	86 150
	Arlparra	77 827
	Alpururulam	67 751
	Ampilatwatja	61 532
	Elliott	49 454
	Wutunugurra	31 077
	Tennant Creek	100 000
<b>Central Desert Regional Council</b>	Anmatjere	114 651
	Atitjere	27 986
	Engawala	21 365
	Lajamanu	93 360
	Laramba	38 267
	Nyrripi	32 065
	Willowra	34 322
	Yuelamu	31 061
<b>East Arnhem Regional Council</b>	Yuendumu	103 941
	Angurugu	139 586
	Galiwin'ku	312 550
	Gapuwiyak	126 683
	Gunyangara	23 348
	Milingimbi	158 085
	Milyakburra	36 618
	Ramingining	123 391
	Umbakumba	96 462
	Yirrkala	112 340



<b>MacDonnell Regional Council</b>	Amoonguna	36 824
	Apatula	24 891
	Areyonga	35 384
	Haasts Bluff	23 830
	Imanpa	27 752
	Kaltukatjara	46 136
	Kintore	69 629
	Ltyentye Apurte	84 469
	Mt Liebig	28 428
	Ntaria	93 161
	Papunya	74 694
	Titjikala	30 119
	Wallace Rockhole	10 400
<b>Roper Gulf Regional Council</b>	Barunga	43 653
	Borrooloola	131 356
	Bulman	41 260
	Jilkminggan	39 947
	Manyallaluk	14 786
	Mataranka	34 811
	Minyerri	68 040
	Ngukurr	148 005
	Numbulwar	143 542
<b>Tiwi Islands Regional Council</b>	Wugularr	71 817
	Milikapiti	69 004
	Pirlangimpi	55 334
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	Wurruyiyanga	219 206
	Daly River	61 875
	Kalkaringi/Dargaragu	76 751
	Pine Creek	51 940
	Timber Creek	32 595
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	Yarralin	78 391
	Palumpa	52 380
	Peppimenarti	25 927
<b>East Arnhem Regional Council</b>	Wadeye	337 979
	Gunbalanya	160 047
	Maningrida	351 214
	Minjilang	44 043
<b>TOTAL</b>	Warruwi	60 508
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5 100 000</b>

## Family Safe Environment Fund

The Family Safe Environment Fund commenced in January 2013. The program funding pool is \$250 000 per annum.

The primary aim of the program is to provide a safe environment for park users and nearby residents through the reduction of incidences of antisocial behavior, wilful vandalism and graffiti. This will be achieved by providing funding for initiatives such as:

- improved park layout
- installation of CCTV cameras
- installation of additional lighting
- improving entrances, exits and signage

### Grant recipients in 2014–15

Council	Purpose	Grant funding \$
<b>West Arnhem Regional Council</b>	To purchase and install solar LED lighting across parks and barbeque areas in the five communities of West Arnhem; Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Minjilang; Warruwi and Jabiru	38 900
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	To purchase and install perimeter fencing totalling 284 mtrs around Kalkarindji community central park	27 772
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	To upgrade and install new light in parks, streets and public places of the communities of Wadeye, Palumpa and Peppimenarti	16 475
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	For the purchase and installation of a CCTV and alarm system for the new Tennant Creek Swimming Pool complex and football change rooms	20 175
<b>Central Desert Regional Council</b>	Towards the purchase and installation of three solar powered lights in a park at Willowra	18 850
<b>Alice Springs Town Council</b>	To purchase and install security lighting and CCTV around Francis Smith Memorial Park	40 897
<b>East Arnhem Regional Council</b>	Towards the purchase and installation of eight solar lights with reinforced protective caging along the Milingimbi foreshore	50 000
<b>Roper Gulf Regional Council</b>	To purchase and install solar lights in problem areas around the council communities.	36 931
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$250 000</b>

## Indigenous Jobs Development Funding

The Northern Territory Government has provided \$7.9 million per annum for the Indigenous Jobs Development Funding (IJDF) from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

The purpose of the IJDF is to allow councils providing local government services the opportunity to receive a subsidy to employ Indigenous staff working in the area of local government service delivery (e.g. parks and gardens, sport and recreation, waste management, animal management, administration, library, civil works and other activities).

### Grant recipients in 2014–15

Council	Indigenous jobs development funding
	\$
Barkly Regional Council	899 831
Belyuen Community Government Council	31 591
Central Desert Regional Council	631 063
East Arnhem Regional Council	1 145 037
MacDonnell Regional Council	1 206 845
Roper Gulf Regional Council	1 529 616
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	522 274
Victoria Daly Regional Council	592 343
West Arnhem Regional Council	705 549
West Daly Regional Council	592 343
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7 856 492</b>

## Regional council establishment and budget assistance funding

### Grant recipients in 2014–15

Council	Purpose	Grant funding
		\$
<b>CouncilBiz</b>	West Daly Regional Council membership to CouncilBiz	50 000
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	Reimburse expenditure costs incurred on activity directly associated with the establishment of the West Daly Regional Council	138 587
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	Budget assistance grant	2 500 000
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	Assist with the establishment costs of the West Daly Regional Council which included staff house repairs, tree removal, vehicle replacement and repairs to vandalised building	238 850
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	Budget assistance grant	851 174
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3 778 661</b>

## Service Funding Agreement – Local Government Excellence in the Northern Territory

### Grant recipient in 2014-15

Organisation	Purpose	Grant Funding
		\$
Local Government Association of the NT	Service level agreement 2014-15	909 090

## Municipal and Essential Services Capital Projects

### Funded in 2014-15

Organisation	Location	Approved project/description	Amount Approved (GST Excl)
			\$
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	Arlparra and outstations	Roads grading	49 240
<b>Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Yilan Barridijowkeng	Solar array replacement	64 546
<b>Central Desert Regional Council</b>	Adelaide Bore	Reestablish water to bore	16 123
	Irrerlirre	Upgrade Power Station	60 000
	Irrerlirre Mt Eaglebeak Focalls Well	Instal rain tanks as back up portable water supply	36 145
	Arrunge (Garden Bore)	Install solar bore	21 704
<b>Demed Association Inc</b>	Araru Point	Water upgrade	26 862
	Mamadawerre	Genset upgrade	29 836
	Gumeragi	Solar upgrade	36 364
	Gamargawan	Solar upgrade	12 419
	Malgawa	Solar upgrade and gen shed	51 819
	Manmoyi	Solar upgrade	16 540
	Mamadawerre	Solar upgrade	16 540
	Wilgi	Solar upgrade	19 819
	Irgul Point	Solar upgrade	30 200

<b>Dinybulu Regional Services Pty Ltd</b>	All funded homelands	Purpose equipped truck for the deliver of municipal services to funded homelands, inclusive of weed sprayer and equipment.	49 944
	Wulkimbimirri	Completion of projects originally funded to BAC and funds returned	20 000
	Ngangalala Wulkimbimirri Yathalamarra	Completion of projects originally funded to BAC and funds returned	100 000
	Wulkabimirri	Septic tank	1 363
		Septic tank	4 545
		Septic tank	4 545
<b>Ilpurla Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Ilpurla	Water Infratruture	69 682
		Power supply	26 700
<b>Ingkerreke Outstations Resource Services Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Harry Creek South	Upgrade power system	15 800
	16 Mile - McCleans	Upgrade power system	17 300
	Angkerle Arrenge B	Upgrade power system	9 810
	Angkerle Arrenge A	Upgrade power system	19 620
	Mt Undoolya	Install solar system for 2x improvised dwellings at Mt Undoolya (2nd area)	37 500
	Gillen Bore - Braun	Equip new bore	22 727
	Harry Creek	Re-equip solar bore at Budgie's Bore	9 091
	Twenpe	Redirect water flow	10 404
	All Ingkerreke/ Ngurratjuta outstations	Purchase Industrial mower and trailer for outstations & town camp municipal program	40 000
	Angatyeppe	Upgrade and repair water mains between H3 & H4 Angatyeppe	12 180
	Burt Creek	Install rubbish tip and fence	13 636
	Harry Creek West	Install monitoring system for powershed	20 787
	Sandy Bore	Install rubbish tip fence	7 273
	Snakewell	Ablution Block	27 273
	Kwale Kwale	Install boundary fence around H7 living area and essential services assets	7 237
	Angkerle Arrenge A	Install boundary fence	7 205

<b>Kalano Aboriginal Housing Corporation</b>	Rockhole station	Road works	40 209
		Municipal	23 100
		Municipal	5 738
		Municipal	9 454
<b>Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation</b>	All 29 Outstations	Trailer	17 844
		Vehicle	64 697
	Naliyindi	Bore headworks	22 561
	Bukudal	Generator	36 364
<b>Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Incorporated</b>	All funded homelands	Sewerage trailer	27 088
	Yameeri	Replace water pipe line from lagoon to tank with poly	10 728
	Babungi	New generator shed	20 443
	Minyallini (Campbell Springs)	New evaporator beds	29 235
	Bauhinia Down Cow Lagoon	Supply and install water conditioners	6 339
	Black Rock Landing	Build new generator shed	28 885
	Kiana	Upgrade ablution block	10 140
	Babungi Black Rock Landing, Jungalina, Minyallini, Mooloowa, Ugie, Wandangul	Dump maintenance / relocation	42 616
	Bauhinia Downs, Babungi	Replace solar pump	18 342
<b>MacDonnell Regional Council</b>	Oak Valley	Water tanks	27 211
	Oak Valley Via Titjikala	Oak Valley generator	29 369
	Green Valley	Water tank	27 604
	Town Bore Via Papunya	Town bore solar upgrade	20 500
	Three Mile, Five Mile, Blackwater, Mbunghara, Ulambara, Green Valley, Atji Creek, Own Bore	Skidsteer – Papunya Outstations Resource	97 200
	Mbunghara	Battery bank	43 580
	Atji Creek	Battery replacement	19 861
	Walkabout Bore	Battery bank replacement	34 591



<b>Marthakal Homeland &amp; Resource Centre Association</b>	Gikal	Install new generator shed	23 545
	Banthula, Dhambala, Dharawa, Dhayirri, Dhudupu, Djurranalpi, Galawarra, Ganpura, Gawa, Gikal, Gulmarri, Mapurru, Mata Mata, Nanyingburra, Ngayawilli, Nikawu, Rorruwuy, Wunburri, Yirringa, Yinyikay	All Stations - water distribution service project	45 455
	Rorruwuy	Install concrete to shed for tractor	16 618
	Mapurru	Fence around tip to keep pigs out	16 364
	Gawa	Rainwater tanks and guttering	11 220
	Banthula	Absorption trenches	9 091
		Pit toilets	15 028
		Install compound for tractor	18 182
	Djurranalpi	Install solar system for lights and fans	30 000
		New generator	12 637
	Dhudupu	Install / replace septic	11 673
	Galawarra	Install new toilet shower septic	11 182
	Nyinyikay	Install second tank and stand	45 273
		Install new septic house 4/5	11 282
	Dhambula	New septic house 2	11 064
	Rorruwuy	Install new gen set	16 046
	Dharawa Banthula Djurranalpi	Banthula - replace one bore pump and panels	9 500
<b>Mopra</b>	Morrungga Langarra Dhipirri	Equip temporary accommodation for visiting municipal services staff to live on site while delivering services to outstations only accessible by boat or aircraft	39 591

<b>Ngaliwurru-Wuli Association Incorporated</b>	Muruning	Speed bumps and signage.	6 905
	Amanbidji (Miamuni)	Speed bumps and signage	6 905
	Myatt	Speed bump and signage	6 905
		Internal roads	6 000
	Gilwi	Water mains	45 924
		Tree lopping	6 327
		Tip reconstruction	12 000
		Tip fence	17 600
		Barriers and road reconstruct	18 920
	Fitzroy	New rubbish dump	12 000
		New tip fence	17 600
		New bore and pump	38 850
	Bubble Bubble	Water pump	4 780
	Gulardi	Access floodway retification	21 300
		Entry road retification	17 600
	All Communities	Dozer engine	6 300
	Barrak Barrak	Water pump	4 780
	Amanbidji (Mialuni or Kildirk), Bulla, Myatt, Muruning	Road bitumen mitigation	18 715
<b>Ngurratjuta Pmara/Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Cave Hole	Purchase new generator	22 728
	Ulpanyali	Upgrade power system	71 000
	Wanmara	Upgrade power system - additional funds	13 620
	Lilla	Upgrade power system - additional funds	10 328
	Boomerang Bore	Install fence to secure solar bore	5 455
		Clean water tank and install speedliner sealer inside large concrete tank.	30 446
	Ulpanyali	Upgrade water mains, install fence around water tank, replace septic tank lid at H2, replace septic trenches (Eastern Houses)	190 391
	Lilla	Upgrade water mains & install bollards around septic tanks and absorption trenches.	103 732

<b>Ngurratjuta Pmara/ Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation</b>	1023 Arkanta	Install concrete pad around bore collar, gravel around Arkanta bore, & install one rainwater tank to House four Arkanta for rainwater	18 182
<b>Numbulwar Homelands Council Association Inc</b>	All Communities	Repair tip truck. To be based in Numbulwar and used on all outstations	32 455
	Wumajbarr Wandu (Yimidarri)	Road works	72 000
	All outstations	Numbulwar - tyre change and compressor. To be set up at homelands shed	9 636
	All Communities	Tractor and trailer. To be based in Numbulwar and used on all outstation	36 364
<b>Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association</b>	Kybrook Farm	Municipal	28 900
<b>Roper Gulf Regional Council</b>	Kewyuli	Fencing	43 065
	Awumbunji, Badawarrka, Baghetti, Barrapunta, Boomerang Lagoon, Costello, Ganiyarrang, Gorpulyul, Jodetluk, Lake Katherine, Larrpayanji, Mobarn, Mole Hill, Momob, Mount Catt, Nulawan, Nummerloori, Roper Bar, Turkey Lagoon, Wanmarri, Werenbun, Flicks Hole, kewulyi , NA Mumballina (Toll Gate) , Yangulinyina	Outstation bobcat	47 905
	Badawarka	Replacement of underground water reticulation	10 325
	Werenbun	Install backup water reticulation supply	5 309
	Boomerang Lagoon	Water tank replacement	9 893
	Badawarka	Upgrade electrical lines to dwellings	18 997
	Costello	Fencing	28 215

<b>Thangkenhareng Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Angkweleyelengkwe Annerre Jemelkere Tara Thangkenhareng	120v 10kw Inverter system & 60x 2v batteries (equivalent). Projects will enable provision of Mun. Svcs., housing etc.	88 420
	Jemelkere Thangkenhareng	Fencing of North Bore, South Bore & solar power compound at Jemelkere community	29 432
	Annerre	Emergency funds for bore exploration (very low flow)	8 721
	Angkweleyelengkwe Annerre Jemelkere Thangkenhareng	Desalination system. Angkweleyelengkwe (5 houses) Annerre (4 houses) Jemelkere (3 houses) Thangkenhareng (2 staff houses)	29 398
<b>Tiwi Islands Regional Council</b>	Paru	Water / Pipe	58 684
	Takapimiliyi	Road / Pipe	24 653
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	Woolianna outstation	Ride on mower	13 909
	Lingara	Replace generator as per report supplied	23 800
<b>Wanbi</b>	All funded homelands	Septic tanks all outstations	44 182
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	Wudapulli	Wudapulli tractor	29 082
	Uminyuluk	Uminyuluk tractor	29 082
	Merrepen airstrip	Upgrade airstrip	31 818
	Deleye, Ditchi, Fossil Head, Kubuyirr, Kudantiga, Kuy, Merrepen, Mulingi, Nadirri, Nama, Nangu, Nemarkluk, Ngardinitchi, Ngarinthe, Old Mission, Perrederr, Uminyuluk, Wudapuli, Wumirdin, Yederr	Voyager trailer	17 364
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	Mulingi	Mulingi water tank	38 000
	Deleye	Deleye solar system	9 270

<b>Yantjarrwu Outstation Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Wudicupildiyerr Emu Point	Capacity and future needs analysis	23 000
		Capacity and future needs analysis	10 029
	Djudian (Kuwuma)	Solar power overhaul	42 000
	Kelerrk	Ride-on mower	6 364
	Wudaduk	Diesel generator	17 237
	Madlindji (Sabina)	Solar battery bank extension and upgrade of power supply	20 500
	Wudicupildiyerr Madlindji (Sabina) Unmarr	Re-sheeting of airfields	34 728
	Wudicupildiyerr, Madlindji (Sabina), Emu Point, Wudaduk, Kelerrk, Djudian, Nurdic, Leichardt	Servicing bores Wudicupildiyerr, Unmarr & Madlindji	22 728
	Emu Point	Sewerage Issues	31 819
		Upgrade water supply	12 136
<b>Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation</b>		Replaced failed 3 phase bore	8 757
		Replace faulty solar modules for bore to restore operation	4 680
<b>Total</b>	All	Tractor/Slasher	37 755
	Walagamini (Finnis River)	Replace septic systems	37 755
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$3 985 109</b>

## Municipal and Essential Services Operational Grants

Funded in 2014-15		
Organisation Name	Purpose	Grant Funding \$
<b>Alice Springs Town Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	250 953
<b>Alawa Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	18 556
	Housing Maintenance	5 274
	NT Jobs	60 729
<b>Arramwelke Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	278 140
	Housing Maintenance	109 299
	NT Jobs	80 972
<b>Barkly Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	1 437 751
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	226 962
	Housing Maintenance	762 820
	NT Jobs	242 916
<b>Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	903 664
	Housing Maintenance	355 106
	NT Jobs	161 944
<b>Canteen Creek Owairtilla Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	252 855
	Housing Maintenance	7 949
	NT Jobs	121 458
<b>Central Desert Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	723 165
	Housing Maintenance	284 176
	NT Jobs	242 916
<b>Demed Association Incorporated</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	609 575
	Housing Maintenance	239 540
	NT Jobs	161 944
<b>Dinybulu Regional Services</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	229 125
	Housing Maintenance	90 038
	NT Jobs	40 486
<b>Diverse Resources Group Pty Ltd</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	110 670
<b>East Arnhem Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	5 364



<b>Gebie Civil And Construction Pty Ltd</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	257 244
	Housing Maintenance	106 638
<b>Ilpurla Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	44 736
	Housing Maintenance	17 579
<b>Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Service Aboriginal Corp</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	1 906 577
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	718 713
	Housing Maintenance	788 466
	NT Jobs	364 374
<b>Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation*</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	159 114
	Housing Maintenance	18 842
	NT Jobs	227 057
<b>Kalano Community Association Inc</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	283 320
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	282 491
	Housing Maintenance	438 173
	NT Jobs	161 944
<b>Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	1 341 687
	Housing Maintenance	527 232
	NT Jobs	242 916
<b>Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Incorporated</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	492 872
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	267 326
	Housing Maintenance	468 837
	NT Jobs	931 178
<b>Macdonnell Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	650 809
	Housing Maintenance	255 744
	NT Jobs	202 430
<b>Marngarr Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	80 525
	Housing Maintenance	31 643
	NT Jobs	40 486
<b>Marthakal Homelands &amp; Resource Centre</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	465 253
	Housing Maintenance	182 827
	NT Jobs	242 916
<b>Milingimbi Outstation Progress Resource Association</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	324 043
	Housing Maintenance	127 337
	NT Jobs	60 729

<b>Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	523 930
	Housing Maintenance	70 828
	NT Jobs	303 645
<b>Mutitjulu Community Incorporated</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	330 264
	NT Jobs	40 486
<b>Ngaliwurru-Wuli Association Incorporated</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	798 133
	Housing Maintenance	251 101
	NT Jobs	283 402
<b>Numbulwar Homelands Council Association</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	240 785
	Housing Maintenance	111 166
	NT Jobs	80 972
<b>Ngurratjuta Pmara/Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	380 838
	Housing Maintenance	149 655
	NT Jobs	40 486
<b>Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	93 362
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	11 881
	Housing Maintenance	12 229
	NT Jobs	40 486
<b>Roper Gulf Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	324 346
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	23 762
	Housing Maintenance	156 617
	NT Jobs	202 430
<b>Savanna Alliance</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	66 131
	Housing Maintenance	25 987
<b>Tangentyere Council Incorporated</b>	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	365 345
	NT Jobs	323 888
<b>T &amp; T Power Generation Pty Ltd</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	37 868
<b>Territory Groundwater Services Pty Ltd</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	16 728
<b>Thangkenhareng Resource Centre</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	273 083
	Housing Maintenance	31 796
<b>Tiwi Islands Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	348 940
	Housing Maintenance	137 120
	NT Jobs	60 729

<b>Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	610 846
	Housing Maintenance	274 454
	NT Jobs	202 430
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	173 497
	Housing Maintenance	68 178
<b>Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation - Kakadu</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	413 515
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	35 643
	Housing Maintenance	199 184
	NT Jobs	40 486
<b>West Daly Regional Council</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	335 013
	Housing Maintenance	124 279
	NT Jobs	121 458
<b>Yantjarrwu Aboriginal Outstation Resource Centre Corp.</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	282 055
	Housing Maintenance	105 477
	NT Jobs	182 187
<b>Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Municipal and Essential Services	361 984
	Municipal and Essential Services Town camps	445 543
	Housing Maintenance	554 748
	NT Jobs	323 888