

# CLOSING THE GAP

## Northern Territory Justice Policy Partnership (NTJPP) - Meeting #6 Communique

On 23 June 2025, the Northern Territory Justice Policy Partnership (NTJPP) held its sixth meeting in Garramila (Darwin), with some members joining online from Mparntwe (Alice Springs). The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Matthew Connop, A/Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Co-Chair), and Ms Leonique Swart, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Territory Attorney-General's Department (AGD) (Government Co-Chair).

The NTJPP position statement was tabled and read at the meeting and is attached to this communique.

### MEMBER UPDATES

Members approved the appointment of Ms Shahleena Musk as an independent member of the NTJPP. Ms Musk serves as the NT Children's Commissioner and is an experienced legal practitioner.

Members welcomed the North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service to their first meeting as an Aboriginal Community Controlled representative member the NTJPP.

### PARTNERSHIP RESET

With changes to NTJPP's governance structure and shifts in government policy direction, members discussed 'resetting' the NTJPP, particularly to ensure greater alignment with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the work and priorities of the National Justice Policy Partnership.

### PRESENTATIONS

The AGD presented on a suite of topics including updating the group on various legislative reforms, key criminal justice statistics and data, and key initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of offending.

The Department of Corrections presented on programs and initiatives developing and underway for adult and youth offenders. This presentation also included a high-level overview of proposed amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 2005 (NT)*.

The non-government members requested a more detailed briefing on these amendments and to be engaged early on any further amendments, noting their specialist expertise can support informed policy and legislative development.

The next NTJPP meeting is scheduled for 15 September 2025.