

## Members briefing note:

# 2026-27 Northern Territory Budget summary

### Key points

- The Northern Territory Budget was handed down on 5 May 2026
- Record spending has been allocated over the coming year to health (\$2.6 billion), infrastructure (\$2.7 billion), reducing crime, law and order (\$1.7 billion), and education (\$1.7 billion)
  - Key health spending includes funding to address health and hospital pressures (\$130m), for example opening a 32-bed multipurpose wards at the Royal Darwin Hospital (\$18.3m), and expansion of road ambulance services (\$10m)
  - Investments to reduce crime, law and order include funding for NT Police (\$654 million), police public safety officers (\$48 million), corrections (\$524 million), justice services, courts and legal aid (\$250 million), designing new men's and women's prisons (\$15 million) and work camps in Katherine and Darwin (\$250 million)
  - Infrastructure spending is particularly focused on road upgrades and improvements
  - Funding for education includes new and upgraded schools and free training pathways
  - There were no new cost of living initiatives included in this NT Budget.
- There are also notable Budget cuts announced, including
  - Funding for mental health reduced from \$135 million to \$130 million
  - Funding for domestic, family and sexual violence services will be cut from \$71 million to \$63 million
  - Funding for Aboriginal town camps and homelands has been cut by around \$5 million.
- Northern Territory Government debt is projected to be at over \$12 billion next financial year, a slight improvement owing largely to mining royalties, GST growth and income from stamp duty
  - The Government also forecasts a stabilising economy from 2027-28, however experts have questioned this, particularly in relation to very low population growth in the NT of just over 1%.

## Budget highlights

### Health

- \$18.3 million (per annum, ongoing) to open and operate a new, 32-bed multipurpose modular ward at Royal Darwin Hospital
- \$10 million (per year, ongoing) to expand road ambulance services
- \$10 million (per annum, ongoing) to increase the capital equipment program to replace medical equipment across hospitals and health facilities
- \$10 million (per annum, ongoing) for the continued operation of the Top End Aeromedical Retrieval Service
- \$10 million (per annum, ongoing) for costs associated with Foundational Supports co-contributions for non-NDIS community services for people with disabilities and their families
- \$130 million to address hospital and health system pressures
- \$20.6 million to support a new aged care facility next to Palmerston Regional Hospital
- \$4 million to install a new CT scanner at Tennant Creek Hospital.

### Rural infrastructure

- \$1 million (per annum, ongoing) for a community infrastructure grant program to support capital upgrades to non-Territory Government-owned sport, recreation, community and cultural facilities.
- \$5 million (per year, ongoing) to maintain parks and reserves
- \$3.3 million per year for two years to safeguard fisheries

### Of interest to ACRRM members

- Cuts to mental health, domestic, family and sexual violence services in the NT is of significant concern
- The NT AMA has said that the Budget is disappointing and notes other cuts to aspects of primary care, remote care and disease prevention
- The ACRRM policy team will continue to work with NT members, monitor developments and consider these issues in public policy processes and representations to government.

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**ACRRM acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the custodians of the lands and waters where our members and staff work and live across Australia. We pay respect to their elders, lores, customs and Dreaming. We recognise these lands and waters have always been a place of teaching, learning, and healing.**