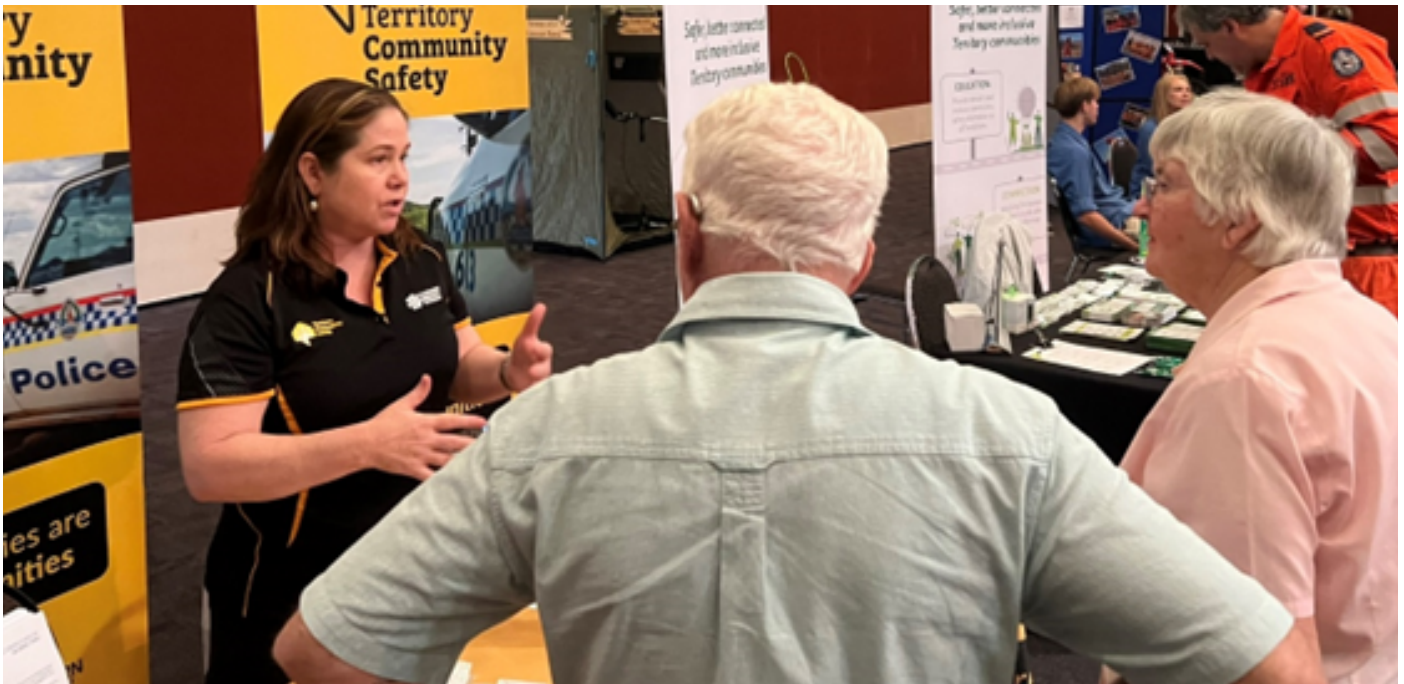


Jurisdictional Spotlight Innovator

Northern Territory Police

The Northern Territory's multi-agency Territory Community Safety Coordination Centre (TCSCC)

Since its inception on 1 July 2023, the TCSCC has used a collaborative approach to address the intricate social factors contributing to anti-social behaviour and youth crime.



In 2022, the end to a 15-year ban on alcohol sales in most remote Aboriginal communities, years of service delivery gaps relating to accommodation, outreach services and youth support, combined with sensationalist media coverage all contributed to a sharp increase in both the real and perceived risks to community safety in the NT. High rates of domestic and family violence in the NT have also intensified the demand for comprehensive support services, requiring ongoing intervention to break the cycle and achieve lasting outcomes.

Since the Country Liberal Party's election victory in August 2024, community safety has again become a central focus in public discourse, as the party campaigned on a platform of restoring community safety across the Territory.

The Territory Community Safety Coordination Centre, led by an Assistant Commissioner and a Director, has two arms: a policing operational arm (Territory Safety Division) and a civilian arm (joint agency liaison officers), co-located together and connected every day.

The Territory Safety Division is located in both Darwin and Alice Springs, with a focus on supporting operational police in maintaining social order, crowd management, reducing anti-social behaviour, and deploying to areas requiring surge capacity across the Northern Territory (NT), including Katherine, Wadeye, and the Tiwi Islands.

The civilian Coordination Centre oversees community safety initiatives in major urban centres and coordinates patroller networks to ensure safe public spaces for all Territorians. Supported by agency liaison officers, the team links and coordinates services across health, liquor licensing, local council rangers, education, youth support, housing, Crown Lands and more. The civilian arm also operates a Community Safety Hub in Darwin, providing the public with direct access to staff from the Territory Community Safety Coordination Centre and its partners. This hub offers resources related to community safety, including victim support services, community safety initiatives, online reporting tools, and more. This policing division is unique because, while its primary goals of ensuring public spaces are accessible and free from anti-social behaviour are standard, it also takes a public-facing approach that addresses community expectations. This public-facing approach aims to reframe the negative narrative surrounding community safety in an area where such issues are divisive and evoke strong sentiments among residents.

The TCSCC's unique organisational structure assists in the delivery of its core functions:

1. Having a footprint in both Alice Springs and in Darwin allows the TCSCC to strengthen the partnerships between service providers in both Central Australia

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Northern Territory Police

The Northern Territory's multi-agency Territory Community Safety Coordination Centre (cont)



and the Top End. Specifically, the TCSCC facilitates the collection, use, and sharing of information across daily patroller coordination meetings, and enhancing collaboration between agencies. These daily forums facilitate the organisation of tailored responses to current and emerging community safety risks through joint patrols involving key partners such as private security, local council rangers, liquor licensing officials, transit safety officers, public housing safety officers, and local Aboriginal and cultural authorities such as Lhere Aterpre and Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs, Larrakia Nation in Darwin.

2. Co-locating representatives from various government agencies at the TCSCC enables the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data. This collaboration breaks down silos between agencies and allows the TCSCC to use data-driven evidence to inform policy development, support proactive decision-making, evaluate services, and provide specialised interventions for at-risk individuals.
3. Moreover, the TCSCC has overseen community safety initiatives across major urban centres by using data to coordinate and support NT and federal government strategies and initiatives such as the Northern

Territory Knife Crime Reduction Strategy 2023 and key programs such as Summer in Central Australian and Strengthening Community Safety.

Whilst the TCSCC has enjoyed a number of accomplishments in its first year, long-term success requires ongoing collaboration across government and community groups. Examples of early initiatives include:

- As the TCSCC is situated in the major urban centres of Darwin and Alice Springs, collaboration with regional and remote partners is required to ensure that community safety service delivery is experienced throughout the entire NT. One key remote initiative is the TCSCC's development of a flexible toolkit for police officers to create Community-led Safety Plans in partnership with Aboriginal communities. These tailored frameworks identify and address community safety priorities, empowering communities by adapting to their specific needs rather than following a rigid policy.
- The TCSCC's partnerships with organisations like Neighbourhood Watch NT and Victims of Crime NT have strengthened its ties to the community. A key example of a community safety partnership initiative

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is the holistic Safety Expo held in Alice Springs. The goal of the Safety Expo was to bring together a wide range of safety services in one place, covering topics from cyber safety and personal protection to emergency services. This provided residents with a convenient opportunity to learn about local safety resources. The event featured three safety workshops, 26 stallholders, and over 125 attendees, with special visits from the dog squad, Royal Flying Doctor Service, and traffic police. Overall, the expo was a success and well-received by the local community.

- In December 2023, the Territory Safety Division (TSD) was established with the responsibility of policing alcohol and anti-social behaviour, the provision of surge response to support regional and remote areas in times of higher need and the reintroduction of a highly qualified crowd management capability to the Territory. Specifically, the TSD provide policing support to the patroller's networks through participation in joint operations to address public safety, reduce secondary supply of alcohol and support Licencing Inspectors, Youth Engagement Officers, Transit Safety Officers and Public Housing Safety Officers in their core functions, supporting a sustainable and collaborative approach to Territory safety. Originally staffed with 10 officers in Darwin,

the TSD will be funded to ensure there will be 52 police positions in the unit every year and extra police vehicles out on the road.

- The TCSCC has brokered a partnership with Charles Darwin University through the establishment of a NTG/CDU Community Safety Collaboration Committee. This Committee will pursue research opportunities aimed at improving community safety. Specifically, this Committee would focus on strategic policing practices, predictive planning and measurement, preventative interventions for criminal offending and anti-social behaviour and evidence-based engagement and behaviour-change programs. This mutually beneficial academic partnership offers research and development opportunities, knowledge and data exchange and practical training for students to ensure the TCSCC constantly strives to achieve best-practice.

For more information related to the TCSCC, visit our website: <https://territorycommunitysafety.nt.gov.au/home>

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