

Palmerston Youth Centre

The PYC is a new space for young people in Palmerston! The Centre is a drop-in, supervised space with structured activities and programs, informal games and activities, cultural activities, and targeted support from Youth Workers.

Run in partnership between the Y and Larrakia Nation. Funded by Northern Territory Government. Delivered at a City of Palmerston facility.

The space is for all young people aged 10 – 17. Opening hours are 3pm – 10pm on school days and 10am to 10pm on weekends, school holidays and public holidays. Open 365 days!

Activities

- Activities which regularly take place onsite at the PYC include arts and painting, ping pong, pool and futsal, computer and Xbox games, socialising/engaging with each other on the bean bags, watching movies.
- On Monday nights, Trent and Tony Lee have been running the Nimik Program -- a Larrakia Cultural program of arts and cultural crafts.
- On Wednesdays Wayne Glenn has been running Mic Check Palmy -- a music program with young people.
- Tennis Palmerston - Alex Capill is planning to run a dedicated introductory tennis program with young people across 40 weeks of the year (school terms), with a specific focus on attendees from PYC. Alex is also running two tennis sessions for PYC young people during the Sept/Oct school holidays.
- Support with Aunty's Free Feeds each week.
- Mission Beat have been attending the PYC each week, helping out with the BBQ and engaging with young people.
- Saltbush mob and the YOREOs are regular visitors to the PYC too.

Attendance

The new Palmerston Youth Centre has been a popular venue for Palmerston young people since its inception, and visits to the space are continuing to rise. Approximately 40-50 people coming through each day on average and growing.

Staffing

- Larrakia Nation – one dedicated staff member based at the PYC and additional cultural activities throughout the year.
- Y NT – Palmerston Operations Manager, Team Leader, Case Support Workers, Youth Workers
- Volunteers welcome – quarterly info sessions + training in-takes.



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Safe communities

- Safeguarding Children and Young People - the Y is accredited with the Australian Childhood Foundation as a child safe organisation and has strong child protection policies and procedures.
- Cultural safety – The partnership with Larrakia Nation + the emphasis on employing Indigenous staff influences the way we work and helps to ensure that our approach is culturally safe.
- Facility safety – There are a number of facility related concerns that once addressed will be preventative measures regarding risk and safety for the PYC and the Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre. We're working with NTG and CoP on these matters.
- Prevention and positive engagement – Strong youth work principles and targeted support. Focus on role modelling good behaviour and encouraging integrity, honesty, respect and caring.
- Peer leadership - A leadership program will be rolled out soon which aims to encourage peer-to-peer engagement by growing and developing young leaders.
- Monthly operational meetings – Key stakeholders from the Y, Larrakia Nation, Territory Families, City of Palmerston, NT Police, YORET will be meeting monthly to discuss PYC operations and ensure a collective, collaborative approach.
- Behaviour management – We have guiding principles that focus our work with young people. The PYC staff are continually improving behaviour management approaches based on our engagement with young people. There is currently a more formal re-entry program being finalised, which was as a result of previous incidents at the PYC and the need for more clarity regarding consequences and follow up actions.
- Stakeholder committee – this will be co-chaired by Judy Brown and Michael Villafor and will bring together key organisations and community representatives to promote collaboration and activities and engagement in the space. This stakeholder committee will have dedicated decision-making positions for young people, to ensure young people's voices and opinions are embedded in the PYC operations.

