



Media Release

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Funding boost for youth program

An after-hours youth program run by Barkly Regional Council has secured a five-year funding agreement with the Northern Territory Government.

Earlier this year the Council's Youth Links after-hours youth service was told by the Minister for Territory Families Dale Wakefield that only two years of funding would be provided, instead of the five years requested.

However, after intense lobbying and advocacy by Council, the NTG has now agreed to a five-year funding agreement for the Youth Links after-hours Youth Program.

The funding \$415,000 per annum is effective from Sunday, 1 July 2018.

Mayor Steve Edgington said it was a bitter blow to the program and staff when Minister Wakefield told Council in April that it would not receive the five-year funding.

"We lobbied the decision intensively and we thank Minister Wakefield for re-considering the Territory Government's position," he said.

"With a long-term funding agreement being finalised it is now in Council's best interest to plan and seek further funds for the upgrade of the Youth Links building to create a youth precinct, and to secure long-term agreements with staff.

"Council is committed to supporting young people and will continue to seek funding for services, facilities and programs in Tennant Creek and the Barkly to advance the region."

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