



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Government must act now to make our communities safe

Children's Ground has repeatedly presented solutions to the Northern Territory Government to create safer communities. For the next government of the Northern Territory, it's time to act.

Now is the time to change the status quo and support First Nations people to have the same rights, the same opportunities and the same privileges as all Australians. We can no longer suffer as second-class citizens in our own country.

This election, both the Labor and Country Liberal parties must commit to meaningful and long-term collaboration with First Nations communities, to investing in our solutions and to supporting our children, young people and families to achieve change, now and for the future.

Business-as-usual must become a policy of the past. It is time for both parties to invest in proactive, strength-based solutions that tackle long-standing challenges and prioritise the needs of community, not politics.

In March this year, during the first of two curfews in Mpartnwe, [we said](#) that "instead of listening and supporting our solutions, our people continue to be policed, institutionalised and criminalised." In the lead up to the 2024 election, there's been little indication this will change.

Both parties are at a race to the bottom to criminalise, rather than invest in our people. The promises of the Country Liberal Party are punitive and will directly impact incarceration of First Nations people. If re-elected, the Labor Party has pledged an extra \$570 million for police over the next five years, including an extra 200 police officers.

For the past five years the Northern Territory Government has continued to invest in policing. It hasn't made our communities safer.

We want investment in our people, our culture, our communities and our solutions.

Governments must invest in whole scale prevention at a community level, run and led by community. This will prevent crime, and it will strengthen our people and our communities, first Nations and non-First Nations alike.

Children's Ground continues to offer solutions to government that de-centralise young people from urban centres and invests in communities and families. We offer solutions that support education, health and employment and community safety.

We still have no commitments from the Northern Territory Government.

We have growing evidence that we're achieving tangible results against key Closing the Gap targets in early learning, local employment, health and local leadership. We bring expertise and money to the table. We offer government a unique partnership with community and philanthropy. Our approach focusses on prevention, outcomes and long-term change.

We want government to join us at the table.

We invite candidates from the Northern Territory Labor Party, Country Liberal Party, NT Greens and independents to Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia) on Thursday 22 August at 11.30am to meet with community leaders, to outline your policies and to listen to our solutions.

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