

# Barkly Regional Deal

## Media release - 10 February 2021

**The Tennant Creek Youth Justice Facility tender is a milestone for community co-design**

The tender is out for the new Tennant Creek Youth Justice Facility.

This is a milestone for Tennant Creek residents who over the last 18 months have selected the facility's location and co-designed the building.

The Youth Justice Facility is one of the 28 initiatives of the Barkly Regional Deal. It will be a therapeutic alternative to detention, with "no locks or bars.", delivering programs to Barkly youth in contact with the justice system, while allowing them to stay closer to their families and Country.

Barkly Regional Deal initiatives like the Youth Justice Facility are developed in collaboration with the community.

The Youth Justice Facility working group, facilitated by the Barkly Regional Deal's Backbone Team, is chaired by residents and made up of community members, local organisations and government representatives.

At the group's regular meetings, community members gave input to the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the project's lead agency) to make sure the facility would meet the needs of the Barkly community.

Through this working group process, the original suggested site of the facility was changed to a new preferred site on Aboriginal-owned land, recognising the importance of young people being on Country during the rehabilitation process.

Local Aboriginal organisations are now co-designing the building with the Department.

Last year, two key local Aboriginal organisations on the working group, Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation and Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, made a joint submission advocating for changes to the design, including bringing a more home-like feel to the facility.

Following the submission, the working group agreed that an Aboriginal-owned approach to designing the building was fundamental. Since then, Julalikari and Anyinginyi, as well as Patta Aboriginal Corporation, the Native Title representative body for the site of the facility, are working together to make sure the design elements identified in the submission are included as the project progresses.

"The working group was a meaningful engagement process, wherein the broader community and relevant stakeholders worked together with government to bring about some very positive and visionary outcomes," says Kevin Banbury, the Managing Legal Practitioner of the Tennant Creek NT Legal Aid office and Co-Chair of the Youth Justice Facility working group.

The Barkly Regional Deal is the first regional development deal in Australia. It brings a new place-based approach to regional development, which puts community voice at the table. For more information see [www.barklyregionaldeal.com.au](http://www.barklyregionaldeal.com.au)

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