



RESEARCHERS PRESENTATION UMEL JOURNEY & EVALUATION PLAN

The Backbone Community Researchers presented their UMEL journey and approach to evaluating BRD initiatives. This work continues to strengthen how data, storytelling, and community voice are used to inform decision-making. A strong focus was placed on ensuring evaluation is grounded in lived experience, with tools such as impact yarns and regular reflection processes supporting a practical and culturally responsive approach to monitoring change across the Barkly.

YOUTH JUSTICE FACILITY UPDATE

An update was provided on the Youth Justice Accommodation Facility, confirming that the service continues to operate as an alternative to detention for young people in the Barkly. Since opening, young people have been supported through accommodation, education, and wellbeing programs, with many successfully completing bail and returning to community. The model continues to prioritise culturally informed approaches, local employment, and partnerships with Aboriginal organisations.

WHERE WE ARE AT IN 2026

As 2026 continues to unfold, the Barkly Regional Deal (BRD) remains focused on delivering real progress across the 28 initiatives.

What is becoming increasingly clear through the work of the GT is that progress is not just about completing projects. It is about how we work together, how we share information, and how decisions are shaped by community voice, data, and lived experience.

At the most recent GT meeting, several key areas were discussed, Data Sovereignty Principles, Youth Justice updates, trauma-informed practice, crisis youth support options, infrastructure updates, and a major contribution from the Backbone Community Researchers on evaluation and learning.

Together, these discussions continue to shape a stronger, more connected approach to delivery in the Barkly.

CRISIS YOUTH SUPPORT – OPTIONS UPDATE

An update was provided on crisis youth support, including three proposed models: a hub/shelter model, a transition to independence model, and a service capacity building approach.

Discussion highlighted opportunities to expand youth homelessness responses in Tennant Creek, alongside a strong focus on supporting young people experiencing complex and intergenerational trauma.

Members emphasised the need for culturally grounded, long-term pathways, with some expressing a preference for a staged, independence-focused model over a hub-style approach. Concerns were also raised about gaps in early intervention, role models, and support for disengaged youth.

No formal decision was made, with consensus to continue dialogue while NTG works with DCCS to refine options in collaboration with the GT.

WEATHER RADAR BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY UPDATE

An update was provided on the Weather Radar project, which is now in the final stages of design. The site has been confirmed at the airport, with infrastructure and power design completed. The radar is expected to be operational in 2027 and will significantly improve weather coverage across the region. The Bureau of Meteorology will provide a further paper to the GT to support ongoing updates.

Moving Forward Together

The conversations at this meeting reinforced the importance of working together in a way that is grounded in community, culture, and shared responsibility.

There is clear momentum across the Barkly, but also a strong understanding that there is more to do. The focus now is on continuing to strengthen how we work together, ensuring efforts are coordinated, and that outcomes are felt where they matter most, in community.

The GT remains committed to this work and to continuing to move forward together.

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE NEW COMMITMENT

NTG noted strong progress in the Trauma Informed Care initiative, with earlier delays now resolved and delivery underway through Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation. The model brings together government and local providers to support children and families experiencing complex trauma, with a focus on culturally responsive, therapeutic care.

GT highlighted that while system coordination is improving, gaps remain in access to specialised support and how services respond to the realities of trauma in community. There was a clear emphasis on ensuring trauma-informed care is reflected in practical, coordinated service delivery across the Barkly.

The next: Governance Table Meeting

Is scheduled for the Thursday 11th of June 2026.

Meeting will be held in Ali Curung from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm