



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

**Indigenous Justice and
Legal Assistance Division**

Night Patrol Services

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) night patrol measure?

Key aspects of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) are the protection of children from abuse and the promotion of law and order to ensure the safety of families in remote communities. Night patrol services are an essential part of achieving these outcomes.

As part of the NTER package, the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department (AGD) received additional funding of \$8.211 million in 2007-08 for the Northern Territory night patrol services. In 2008-09, AGD has received funding of \$17.7 million to continue night patrol services in the Northern Territory. The Minister for Home Affairs has approved the use of funds (NTER) in 2008-09 to fund town camps and communities directly affected by the NTER.

2. What is a night patrol service?

Night patrols assist people at risk of either causing or becoming the victims of harm in order to break the cycle of violence and crime in communities. The approach is based on non-coercive intervention strategies to prevent and control anti-social and destructive behaviours through the promotion of culturally appropriate processes around conflict resolution and contemporary law enforcement measures.

The activities undertaken by a night patrol service may include relocating a person to a 'safe' environment (eg relative's home, recognised safe house, woman's refuge, hospital or other medical facility), diffusing violent situations, diverting intoxicated people away from contact with the criminal justice system and providing advice, information or referral (eg to a counselling service).

3. Why is AGD responsible for night patrol services as part of the NTER?

AGD has provided funding for night patrol services in various NT Indigenous communities and town camps since 2004-05. The value of community and night patrol services in increasing community safety and reducing contact with the criminal justice system is well known.

AGD is contributing to the NTER by funding night patrol services in the NTER identified communities.

4. What are the geographical boundaries for night patrol services?

Night patrols generally focus on patrolling local 'hot spots' with a view to promoting a safe and secure environment for those within the community. The geographical area serviced by the night patrol service should be clearly defined and publicly displayed in public spaces around the community, including in the service providers' offices and on all resource materials and publications of the night patrol service.

5. Can a Community night patrol provide services to an outstation?

Generally, it will be the responsibility of the night patrol service to determine whether outstations can be serviced by the night patrol operating in the community. Servicing outstations or other surrounding locations will be considered in light of factors including the impact of anti-social behaviour on the community at the surrounding location, the level of work generated within the community and available resources.

6. Which communities have been identified as benefiting from night patrol services as part of the NTER?

The 73 communities included in the NTER are listed below.

East Arnhem Shire:

Galiwinku – (Elcho Island)
Umbakumba
Milingimbi
Ramininging
Gunyangara – (Ski Beach)
Yirrkala
Gapuwiyak – (Lake Evella)
Milyakburra – (Bickerton Is)
Angurugu

Barkly Shire:

Canteen Creek – (Owaitilla)
Alpurrurulam
Ali Curung
Wutunugurra – (Epenarra)
Imangara - (Murry Downs)
Tara
Ampilatwatja

Victoria Daly Shire:

Naiyu – (Daly River)
Pigeon Hole
Daguragu
Kybrook Farm
Peppimenarti
Palumpa
Wadeye
Bulla
Amanbidji – (Kildurk)
Yarralin
Kalkarindji – (Wake Hill)

Central Desert Shire:

Nyirripi
Yuendumu
Yuelamu
Laramba
Pmara Jutunta - (Ti Tree 6 Mile)
Nturiya
Wilora
Engawala
Atitjere – (Hart Range)
Lajamanu
Willowra

West Arnhem Shire:

Gunbalanya – (Oenpelli)
Maningrida
Minjilang (Croker Island)
Warruwi (Goulburn Island)

Tiwi Islands Shire:

Pirlangimpi (Garden Point)
Milikapiti – (Snake Bay or Melville Island)
Nguui – (Bathurst Island)

MacDonnell Shire:

Mt Liebig
Amoonguna
Hermannsburg
Santa Teresa
Finke – Apatula
Imanpa
Mutitjulu
Kintore
Papunya
Haasts Bluff – Ikjuntji
Areyonga
Wallace Rockhole
Titjikala
Kaltukatjara – (Docker River)

Roper Gulf Shire:

Numbulwar
Robinson River
Minyerri (Hodgson Downs)
Weemol
Bulman
Rittarangu
Ngukurr
Jilkminggan – (Duck Creek)
Beswick
Manyallaluk – (Eva Valley)
Barunga

Top End Region:

Belyuen
Acacia Larrakia and Batchelor

Katherine Region:

Binjari

7. Which communities are currently funded for a night patrol service?

Each of the 73 NTER communities are funded for a night patrol service.

8. How will AGD deliver night patrol services to the NTER communities?

In 2007-08, night patrol services were provided by the NT Shire Councils, where possible. AGD negotiated program funding agreements with each shire council. These agreements provided funding for night patrol services in each NTER community located within that shire and included funding for a vehicle, training, specified equipment and uniforms for each night patrol team.

A regional service delivery model was chosen as an effective mechanism for delivering night patrol services to the NTER communities. The shire councils established by the NT Government were selected as the preferred service providers as their geographic coverage incorporates the NTER communities. The NT Government worked with AGD to develop agreements for the provision of night patrol services.

In January 2008, the NT Chief Minister Paul Henderson announced that the Top End Shire would not be included in the Local Government reforms. Two NTER communities, Belyuen and Acacia Larrakia / Batchelor, are located in this region. AGD entered into alternative arrangements for the provision of night patrol services in the two NTER communities in the Top End region. The service provider for the Top End region is under the same obligations as the shire councils.

These arrangements will continue in 2008-09. AGD has received funding of \$17.7m in 2008-09 for night patrol services in the Northern Territory. Program funding agreements are currently being negotiated.

The contracted service providers are responsible for the recruitment of night patrol regional managers who manage the night patrol teams. Each night patrol team is expected to comprise of four positions: a night patrol team leader and three night patrollers.

All 73 NTER communities will continue to receive funding for a night patrol.

9. How will NTER communities be involved in the operation of night patrol services?

AGD recognises that communities play an important role in the implementation and operation of night patrols. To assist in establishing night patrols, service providers are encouraged to engage with communities to determine community safety needs.

10. Do night patrol services have to operate 7 days a week?

Service providers receive funding to support a night patrol operating for 7 days a week. However, there may be instances where communities do not require night patrols each night. Service providers must consult with the community to establish their requirements.

As per the requirements of the 2008-09 Night Patrol Service Operational Framework, the night patrol must operate in the community at least five (5) nights per week, with a minimum of two (2) patrol workers.

11. What if a community requires more or less than four night patrol officers?

Generally, four night patrol officers per community is the minimum requirement to operate a night patrol service. Where a service provider identifies a need for a variation to the number of night patrol officers required in a community they should contact AGD to discuss.

Within the four positions offered, a combination of full time and part time employment can be utilised and negotiated during the recruitment process. This helps to accommodate the different requirements of different communities.

AGD has put forward a service delivery model, but if providers identify a different model to meet their needs, then that model can be presented to AGD for consideration.

12. Can service providers vary their program funding agreement?

Service providers may vary their program funding agreement by providing a written request to AGD.

13. Can existing night patrol service providers continue under the shire arrangement?

Subcontracting arrangements may be entered into by shire councils. However, written consent must be given by AGD.

14. Will AGD be providing real jobs in communities and, if so, how many?

Night patrols are anticipated to create 'real jobs' or salaried positions. AGD funding supports training and entitlements for these positions, and helps to create career paths for Indigenous people in night patrol and other community services.

The structure of night patrol services within each community is the responsibility of the relevant service provider.

AGD does not support salaried night patrol positions being subsidised by the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) programme or similar programs.

15. When will the recruitment and training of night patrol staff commence?

Service providers are responsible for recruiting and training night patrol staff. Where possible, information on upcoming recruitment will be made available in documents such as this.

16. What training will be provided for night patrol staff?

All night patrol staff must participate in appropriate training. The training may include modules on: personal security, OH&S, First Aid, dealing with conflict situations and reporting, and any other modules that meet the needs of individual night patrol teams. Training will be organised by service providers and night patrol regional managers.

Additional information relevant to the services accessible in each region is expected to be provided to night patrollers. This may include:

- information regarding support services available to victims and offenders
- referral to relevant local services: for example safe place, community health centres or clinics and police, and
- referral to other agencies: for example Mobile Child Protection Team, Mental Health Programs, Centrelink Offices and Housing Department.

17. Is there any pre-employment or job-ready training available for potential night patrol staff?

There are opportunities for pre-employment or job-ready training through employment providers and Registered Training Organisations including CDEP organisations.

Individuals interested in becoming night patrol officers should contact the Community Employment Broker or Job Network provider in their community to ascertain whether there is general job-ready training available which may result in that individual being considered more suitable for a night patrol officer position.

18. Will night patrol staff who have already received night patrol training (eg from Tangentyere Council Inc) be required to undergo further training?

Service providers are responsible for employing and training night patrol staff. They will determine what training individual employees will be required to complete.

19. What training options are available to service providers?

Service providers are responsible for ensuring that relevant training is provided for night patrol employees. Training is essential to the operation of the night patrol and the safety of patrollers.

Training must be conducted by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) as per the requirements of the 2008-09 Night Patrol Service Operational Framework.

The following organisations are approved night patrol training providers:

- * Charles Darwin University (CDU)
 - Paul Fitzsimons, (08) 8959 5400, paul.fitzsimons@cdu.edu.au
- * HK Training and Consultancy
 - Kate Lee, Director, (08) 8945 7865, hktc@ozemail.com.au
- * retram (Remote Training and Maintenance Services)
 - Gail Reimers, 0419 910 266, greimers@bigpond.com
 - Terry Hanrahan, 0428 829 145, thanrahan1@bigpond.com

20. Will AGD be funding capital items?

AGD will provide funding for capital items to service providers. Providers will purchase capital items required for the night patrol services in line with their approved budgets.

21. What is the role of the Government Business Managers (GBMs) in the establishment and operation of night patrol services?

Night patrol services will be established and operated by the relevant service provider. Providers will consult with relevant GBMs as necessary.

Night patrol management is not part of the GBMs roles and responsibilities developed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

22. What can NTER communities do now in order to plan/prepare for the establishment of a night patrol service?

The confidence and support of the community is essential to the implementation and operation of the night patrol service. Community identification of trouble areas, appropriate people to participate in the night patrol and support services will facilitate the roll-out or continuation of night patrol services.

Where a community is not in a position to support the successful implementation or operation of a night patrol service in their community, preparations may be needed to address a lack of infrastructure or capacity to support the night patrol.

Service providers are undertaking community consultations to help identify community needs, required infrastructure and the support required to ensure the success of night patrols in each community.

23. What if a NTER community does not want a night patrol service?

Community support is important to implementing or operating a successful night patrol service. Where a community does not welcome the introduction of the service, those concerns will be addressed and the specific benefits of the program will be identified for that community. As the night patrol service is developed, in consultation with communities, it will be tailored to the particular and current needs of the community.