



## MINISTER FOR TERRITORY FAMILIES AND URBAN HOUSING

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Mr Paul McDonald, Ms Pam Marwood and Ms Cheryl Schmidt  
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Via Email: [info@thehomestretch.org.au](mailto:info@thehomestretch.org.au)

Dear Mr McDonald, Ms Marwood and Ms Schmidt

*Paul, Pam + Cheryl.*

Thank you for your letter regarding the Home Stretch reform in the Northern Territory (NT).

I am pleased to inform you that work has progressed since our last meeting. Legislative amendments are under way to ensure that the intent of the Home Stretch campaign is realised in law. This builds upon previous legislative amendments that guaranteed children who left care at 18 years of age could continue their living arrangements until the completion of their education or training. This is built on existing NT law where children previously in care are entitled to receive after-care support until the age of 25.

In the NT, 636 children are in care until their 18th birthday, with 35 to 50 young people leaving care each year.

The NT Government is committed to ensuring that those children who wish to continue their living arrangements or receive support to live independently will be entitled to such support until the age of 21. We are working with our sector partners, including CREATE Foundation and the members of the local Home Stretch Campaign, to progress reforms before the end of 2021. Your ongoing advocacy in the community will be essential to assisting this reform to pass.

Thank you for your continued advocacy and support for all children and young people in out-of-home care. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that all young people in care in the NT have opportunities and supports that enable them to thrive.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Luke Twyford, General Manager, Strategic Services, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, on (08) 8999 2808 or email [Luke.Twyford@nt.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Twyford@nt.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

KATE WORDEN

29/5/21