

WHAT IS THE INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION PANEL?

The Interagency Collaboration Panel is where information is shared between groups of Government representatives who discuss the options available for families in need of assistance. The Panel satisfies section 140B(2) of the *Youth Justice Act*, which identifies that:

Agencies with responsibilities related to the welfare of youth must work together cooperatively and effectively to help parents and youths.

Who sits on the Panel?

The Panel is chaired by the Family Support Centre Manager and members are Authorised Officers from each of the Appropriate Agencies. Panel members come from the Departments of Health and Families, Justice and Education and Training and the Northern Territory Police.

For more information on Authorised Officers and Appropriate Agencies, see fact sheets 8 and 6.

How often are meetings held?

Meetings are held on a monthly basis, or at other times if necessary.

What does the Panel do?

- Panel members work together, to make sure that families are receiving the best possible service available that assists them to manage the behaviour of their children and promote their family's wellbeing.
- The purpose of the Panel is to ensure all available information is gathered and shared about a family of concern, and to ensure that both government and community services work in partnership to meet the needs of parents and young people.
- After information is shared, the Panel members may decide that it is worth making a Family Responsibility Agreement or a Family Responsibility Order with a family of concern and particularly if such an Agreement or Order is in the best interests of the child/children.

For more information on Family Responsibility Agreements and Orders, see fact sheets 3 and 4.

What about privacy of the family?

All discussions are confidential with respect to families and their service providers and all records are kept in secure and confidential files.