



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Library COVID entry updates**

Council has been working with the Anti-Discrimination Commission and NT Department of Health regarding updates to the Library's COVID measurement.

In May the Library was required to bring in a system that meant any unaccompanied visitors aged 15yrs and under were welcomed to use the Library however must be accompanied by an adult as a result of COVID contact tracing.

Over the past four months Council has been working closely with the NT Department of Health to find ways to allow unaccompanied youth to use the space whilst also meeting contact tracing requirements. As a result of these discussions, Council has updated the COVID19 measurements relating to entry requirements, as well as behavioural guidelines.

*"The Alice Springs Public Library is an accessible and inclusive space for all our community. As the Library is such a vibrant and diverse space it important for us to get the balance right, which we feel we have done with these updates."* Said Kim Sutton, Director Community Development

*"This is not about excluding anyone from the Library, this is about making the space inclusive and safe for all. Let me be clear, this has not been a ban of any kind and everyone is welcome to the Library provided they respect the space and all other visitors."*

Regarding the proposed Youth Hub, with COVID19 regulations considerably impacting the operations of this proposed facility, Council proactively re-evaluated the most effective way to run this program going forward. In this process Council Management consulted with key stakeholders, including youth service providers, as well as listened to youth and the wider community.

As a result of these discussions, Council has decided to collaborate on a pilot youth program which was suggested by elders and community groups, as a proven program with strong community support.

*"With a fundamental purpose on empowering young people to improve, this pilot program has many demonstrated benefits and is a fresh approach to the traditional youth programming run by Council. This also allows Council to trial programs and further discussions on locations for a more successful potential Youth Hub space in the future."* Said Kim Sutton, Director Community Development

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