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**From:** Cecelia Gore [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 10 September 2020 9:22 AM

**To:** PLEPproject [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: NTLEN Full Report: Darwin Adult Mental Health Centre

Thanks Noelene

I have no idea what the last sentence means.

My perspective is that one of the things that makes the Territory unique is that we are so dispersed and there is genuine regional variation and rich contexts.

I am more interested in supporting those local voices and energy, in all their diversity and difference. As you and I have talked before, I have almost 30 years of work in community development, peer programs, lived experience advocacy, stigma busting, etc and I don't need convincing of the value of all voices.

What I don't see happening when you claim the "NT" title for your particular network is your acknowledgment of diversity of both experience and power, noting many of the other jurisdictional networks you have listed don't use their state titles to exclude other possibilities.

I wish you well in your endeavours

Kind regards

**Cecelia Gore**

Senior Director

Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch

p. [REDACTED]

m. [REDACTED]



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**From:** PLEPproject [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 September 2020 9:07 AM  
**To:** Cecelia Gore [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: NTLEN Full Report: Darwin Adult Mental Health Centre

Good morning Cecelia,

No disrespect has ever been intended to the existing Networks that have operated in regional locations both in Darwin and other locations. We continue to align our activities with other grassroots organisations who mostly use their personal time and skills to improve the NT mental health and suicide prevention system.

The NTLEN is seeking to develop a NT wide Network/Body akin to VMIAC in Victoria, CoMHWA, Flourish in Tas, Being in NSW, LELAN in SA, etc. While many large NT wide peaks such as the Coalition have sought to represent our voice, they primarily represent the voice of their members which are Community Mental Health Organisations. Having worked at the Coalition I am familiar with the difference between the lived and organisational perspective.

From little things, big things grow. Our community are not unaccustomed to being pushed into a disadvantaged position of power, but I thank you for your feedback none the less.

Regards  
Noelene

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Cecelia Gore [REDACTED]

Date: 10/9/20 8:25 am (GMT+09:30)

To: PLEPproject [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: NTLEN Full Report: Darwin Adult Mental Health Centre

Dear Noelene

Thanks for your email. I have been aware through Facebook, of some of your endeavours to establish another lived experience network here in Darwin.

I would be keen for you to talk with Tim about the lived experience networks that have been operating in regional centres and communities for many years, particularly (but not limited to) in Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs. While they may not have used the specific jargon language de jour, they have done remarkable advocacy and representation and continue to provide significant input into both service development and community resilience. The youth network supported by headspace is another that comes to mind, and I attended the Suicide Prevention Day breakfast at Billeroy House yesterday – another amazing network of people with lived experience who are working to represent, advocate and support.

I think it is also important that your language of ‘never before supported’ is not taken to be highly disrespectful of the people from DRISPN and DYSPN who have toiled for years as volunteers in Darwin, and who have also received funding support for specific community building initiatives.

Thank you for the information from your group about the adult mental health centre development. As you are aware, this will be formally commissioned by the NTPHN, however NT Health will be involved in its commissioning, to ensure that resources are used as effectively as possible.

Kind regards

**Cecelia Gore**

Senior Director, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch  
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**From:** PLEPproject [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 10 September 2020 8:05 AM

**To:** Cecelia Gore [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NTLEN Full Report: Darwin Adult Mental Health Centre

Good Morning Cecelia and team,

I am part of a Working Group of people establishing the Northern Territory Lived Experience Network (NTLEN). I had a chat with Melissa last week about the NTLEN, so I believe the Department may be aware of the initiative and my involvement. However, I have included some background information below for those who are not familiar with the NTLEN.

The NTLEN is a volunteer initiative instigated by Territorians with lived experience. Our vision is to provide a collective and independent voice for Territorians with lived experience of issues related to mental illness, suicide, trauma or alcohol and other drug use. Our network includes people with individual experience (consumers), and experience providing care and support to a family member or friend (carers).

All other Australian states and territories have lived experience networks or peak bodies to ensure the diverse perspectives of people with lived experience are used to inform the way mental health and suicide prevention services are planned, developed, delivered and evaluated. The NTLEN is seeking to address the gap in the Northern Territory, which is the only state or territory without a consumer network, or history of ever supporting a network.

I would like to share with you the Full Report produced by the NTLEN for the new Darwin Adult Mental Health Centre: one of eight Centres that will be trialled across Australia.

The NTLEN recognised the importance of ensuring the people who are most affected by this investment, have the ability to inform its establishment and operation. We convened a Lived Experience Consultation on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2020 to gather the experience of people finding and accessing mental health supports, and to record the lived experience perspective of how to develop and operate the Centre so it provides a safe, effective and valued service for our community. Arising from the Consultation, the NTLEN made 11 recommendations for the NT Government and NT Primary Health Network, which are included in the Full Report.

FULL REPORT: <https://livedexperiencet.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NTLEN-AMHC-Consultation-Full-Report.pdf>

We encourage you to read our Consultation report and share it through your networks. The NTLEN Working Group is also available, and would value the opportunity, to have a discussion with you about the NTLEN and potential opportunities to collaborate for the meaningful engagement of people with lived experience in the NT. However please note, as a volunteer operated network, we do not have the ability to be available at short notice.

Kind Regards

**Noelene Armstrong**

Peer Led Education Project Officer

Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition

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NORTHERN TERRITORY  
**MENTAL HEALTH**  
COALITION

*The Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region and pay our respects to Larrakia elders past and present.*