



## Media release

### Report launch – “It’s up to everyone to call it out”

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Children’s Commissioner Shahleena Musk has today launched a report on children and young people’s experiences of racism in the Northern Territory.

The report, “*It’s up to everyone to call it out*”, reflects what 284 individual children and young people told the Office of the Children’s Commissioner about their experiences and observations of racism.

“The Office of the Children’s Commissioner travelled across the Territory to speak to children and young people from a range of backgrounds on their experiences and observations of racism. I am grateful to every child and young people who courageously shared their experiences, thoughts and ideas with us” said Commissioner Musk.

A staggering 80% of children and young people who participated in the project had seen or experienced racism.

“Racism has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. I am deeply concerned about the prevalence of racism in the lives of children and young people” she said.

Children and young people identified school, public places like urban streets and recreation spaces, shops, social media and online as the main environments where they have seen or experienced racism.

“Racism significantly impacts on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. For many young people we spoke to, racism makes them feel unwelcome and unwanted in their own communities. This is unacceptable – children and young people are important members of society. We can no longer allow their experiences of racism to be met with silence.” said Commissioner Musk.

Racist language, racial stereotypes and targeted instances of racism were the primary types of racism experiences by children and young people.

“Children and young people are acutely aware of the public narrative that surrounds them. They told us everyone needs to work together to change the narrative about young people. Greater education and awareness raising initiatives are needed alongside training for adults working with children and young people” she said.

“Young people must not carry the responsibility of addressing racism on their own. We all have a duty to prevent racism. We must listen, we must act and we must work together to call racism out and stamp it out. Racism is harmful and children and young people’s experiences must be taken seriously” said Commissioner Musk.

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