4   GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

This chapter discusses different ways of approaching a geographical analysis. Then it focuses on the distribution of the homeless population in the Northern Territory.
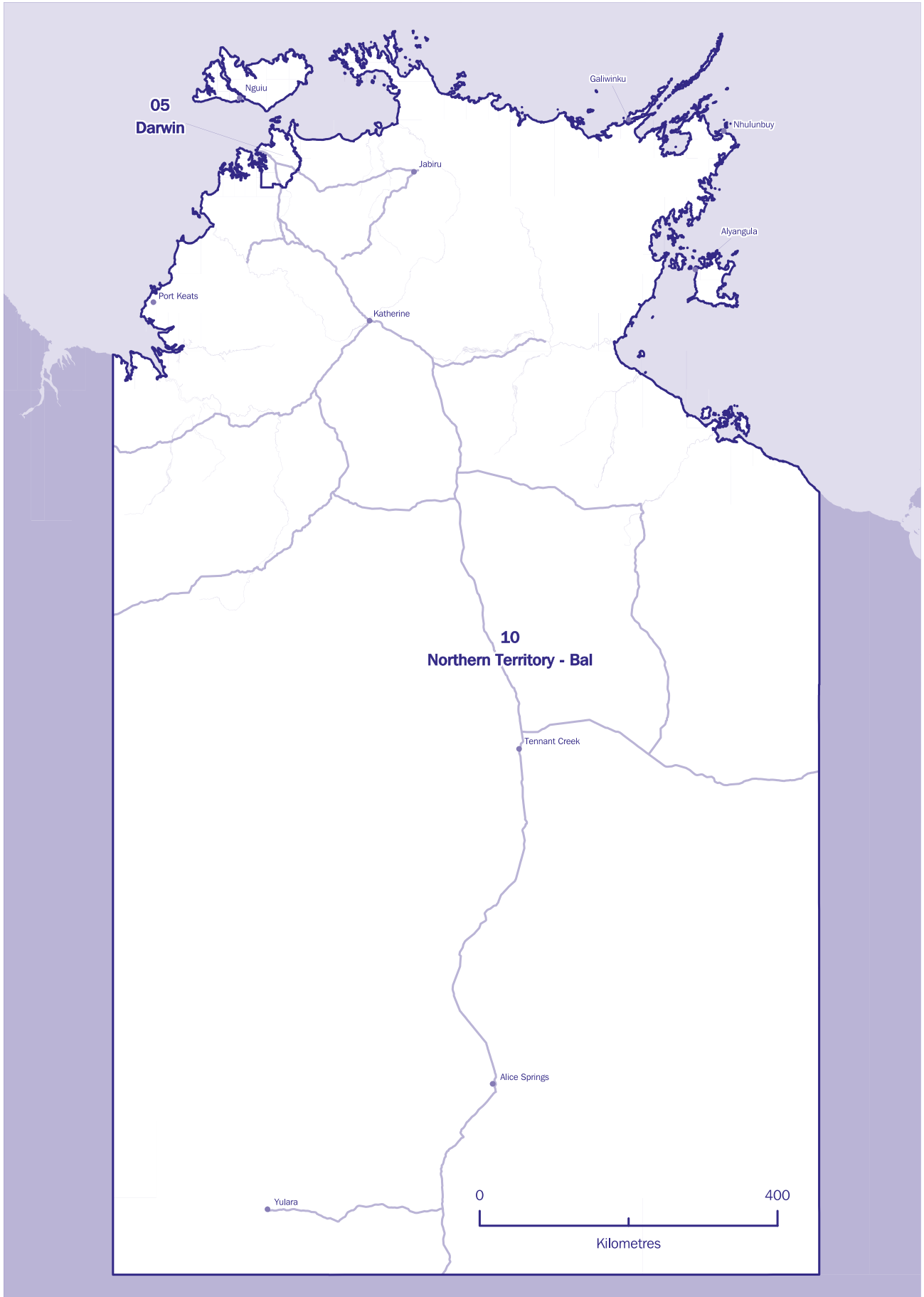
4.1   NUMBERS AND RATES

There are two ways of approaching the geographical spread of the homeless population and both are important. First, there is the number of homeless people in particular communities on census night. This is the 'raw' count and policy makers always need to be aware of these figures. Second, homelessness can be expressed as a rate per 10 000 of the population. This statistic is required for comparing communities of different sizes. For example, the number of homeless people will always be greater in Darwin than in regional centres such as Katherine or Tennant Creek because of the difference in population size, but the rate of homelessness may be the same.

However, it is important to be cautious when interpreting rates for two reasons. First, the rate of homelessness in a particular area does not tell us how many in that community became homeless. For example, the rate of homelessness in Alice Springs quantifies the number of homeless people in relation to the Alice Springs' population, but it does not tell us whether those people came from Alice Springs, other parts of the Territory, or from interstate.

Second, it is important to be cautious when interpreting rates for geographical areas with small populations. Suppose that policy makers have the resources to fund one new SAAP service and they are evaluating the competing claims of two communities. In a small town of 2000 people the rate of homelessness was 100 per 10 000, whereas in a regional city of 30 000 it was 30 per 10 000. Should the resources go to the rural community or to the regional city?

In the rural community, there would have been 20 homeless people (20 x 10 000/2000 = 100 per 10 000), whereas in the regional city there would have been 90 homeless people (90 x 10 000/30 000 = 30 per 10 000). When policy makers allocate resources, they have to consider both the number of homeless people in a community and the rate of homelessness, as well as local intelligence about what is happening 'on the ground' in order to match services with expressed need.

MAP 1: NORTHERN TERRITORY, Statistical Divisions

MAP 2: NORTHERN TERRITORY, Darwin Statistical Division

Gunn Point Rd

0505
Darwin City

Fannie Bay

Port Darwin

East Arm

Howard Springs

0520
Litchfield Shire

0510
Palmerston-East Arm

05
Darwin

Middle Arm

Noonamah

Humpty Doo

Arnhem Hwy

Statistical Subdivision	**0505** **Darwin City**
Statistical Division	**05** **Darwin**

Stuart Hwy

0   20
Kilometres

MAP 3: NORTHERN TERRITORY, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

MAP 4: NORTHERN TERRITORY, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas: Enlargements

South Alligator

Cox
Peninsula (CGC)

0520
Litchfield Shire

Belyuen
(CGC)

Litchfield (S) - Pt B

1005
Finniss

1015
Alligator

Cox-Finniss

Statistical Local Area	Litchfield (S) - Pt B
Statistical Subdivision	**0520** **Litchfield Shire**

Coomalie (CGC)

0   10

Kilometres
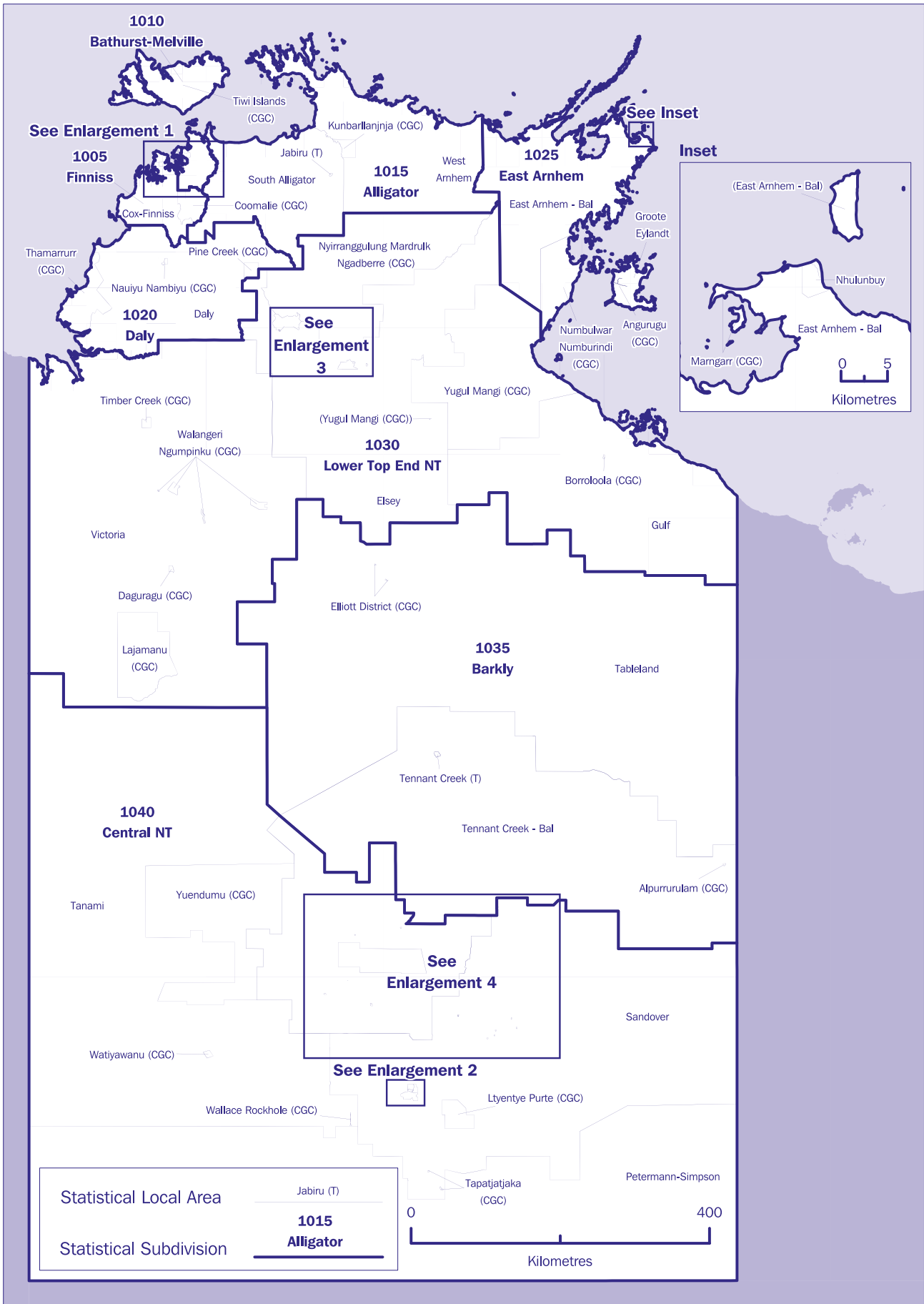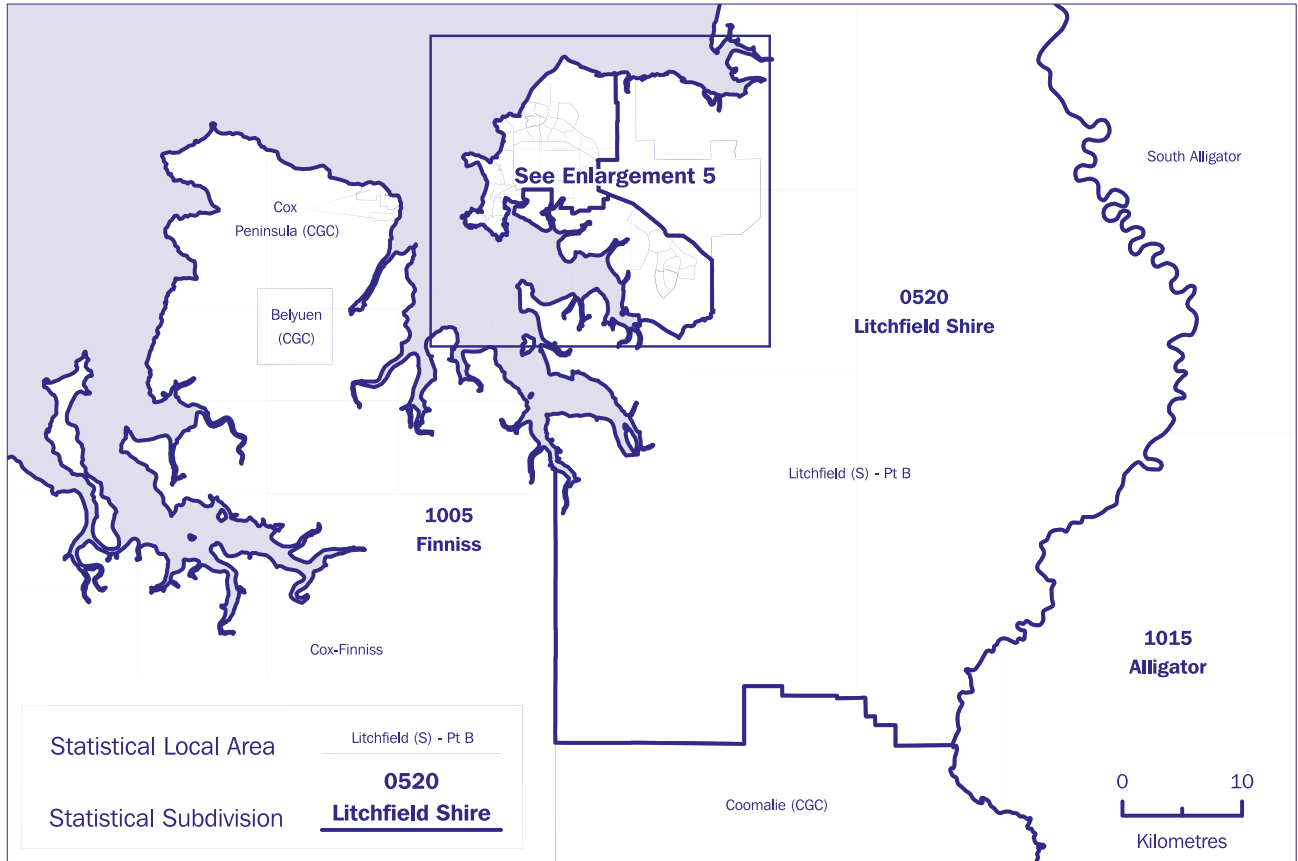
See Enlargement 5

Enlargement 1

Enlargement 2

1040
Central NT

Alice Springs (T) -
Charles

Alice Springs (T) -
Ross

Alice Springs (T) -
Larapinta

Sandover

Alice Springs (T) - Stuart

Alice Springs (T) - Heavitree

Statistical Local Area	Sandover
Statistical Subdivision	**1040** **Central NT**

0   10

Kilometres

MAP 5: NORTHERN TERRITORY, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas: Enlargement 3

Jilkminggan (CGC)

Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre (CGC)

Mataranka (CGC)

(Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre (CGC))

Elsey

1030
Lower Top End NT

20

Kilometres

0

Katherine (T)

Binjari (CGC)

Statistical Local Area

Elsey

1030
Lower Top End NT

Statistical Subdivision

MAP 6: NORTHERN TERRITORY, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas: Enlargement 4

Tanami

1040
Central NT
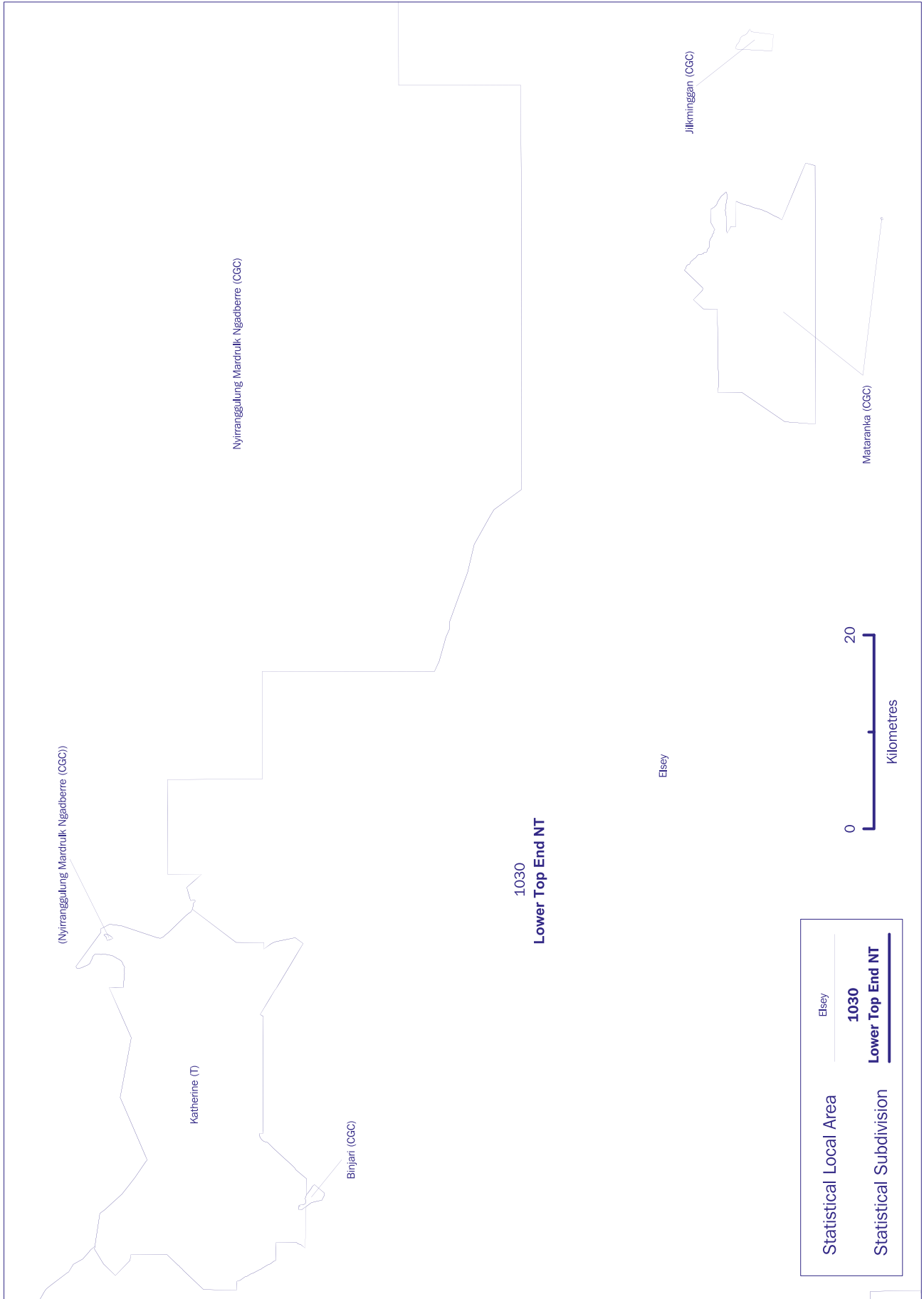
Statistical Local Area

Statistical Subdivision

1040
Central NT

1040
Central NT

Tennant Creek - Bal

Aritarlplta (CGC)

100

Kilometres

0

1035
Barkly

Hanson

Anmatjere (CGC)

Sandover

(Anmatjere (CGC))

Tanami

MAP 7: NORTHERN TERRITORY, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas: Enlargement 5

Statistical Local Area — Parap

0505
Darwin City

Statistical Subdivision

0   5
Kilometres

0520
Litchfield Shire

Litchfield (S) - Pt B

Litchfield (S) - Pt A

Gunn-Palmerston City

Bakewell
Gray
Driver
Woodroffe
Durack
Moulden
Palmerston (C) Bal

(Palmerston (C) Bal)

East Arm

0510
Palmerston-East Arm

(Litchfield (S) - Pt B)

Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp
Wagaman
Leanyer
Wulagi
Malak
Anula
Karama
Marrara
Wanguri
Tiwi
Nakara
Brinkin
Alawa
Moil
Jingili
Millner
City - Remainder
Winnellie
0505
Darwin City
Narrows
Rapid Creek
(East Arm)
Ludmilla
Bayview-Woolner
Nightcliff
Coconut Grove
Fannie Bay
Parap
Stuart Park
City - Inner
The Gardens
Larrakeyah

Cox-Finniss

1005
Finniss