

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Police:

**Youth Verbal and Written Warnings**

Please provide the following data for the 12 months to 30 September 2023.

1. How many youths have been given a verbal or written warning under section 39(2)(a-b) of the Youth Justice Act who were:
  - a. Less than 12 years old at the time of the warning?  
24 youths (aged 10 or 11) were given a verbal/written warning for the period of 1 October 2022 to 1 August 2023, from which date the minimum age of criminal responsibility was raised to 12.
  - b. 12 years or older at the time of the warning?  
188 youths (aged 12-17) for the period of 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.
  
2. Of the youths who were given a verbal or written warning who were less than 12 years old at the time of the warning, how many subsequently:

The Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility was raised to 12 years old on 1 August 2023. Youths under that age who were apprehended in relation to criminal offences, arrested or charged are not included in this data.

- a. Received a verbal or written warning  
1 youth (aged 10 or 11) received a subsequent verbal/written warning.
  
- b. Were apprehended by Police  
8 youth (aged 10 or 11) came into contact with the criminal justice system.

3. Of the youths who were given a verbal or written warning who were 12 years or older at the time of the warning, how many offended, reoffended, or were arrested at any time following the warning?

In total, 53 youths (aged 12-17) re-offended after receiving a verbal or written warning.

- a. Received a verbal or written warning  
Of the 53 youths, 18 received a subsequent verbal/written warning.
- b. Were apprehended by Police  
35 youths (aged 12-17) were apprehended.  
*Refer to Q2b and footnote for data parameters.*
- c. Were arrested  
Of those 35 youths that were apprehended, 20 were dealt with by arrest and 15 were dealt with by summons.
- d. Were charged with an offence  
All 35 apprehended youths (aged 12-17) were subsequently charged with at least one offence.