

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Chief Minister for all portfolios under the Chief Minister's responsibility

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

Note 1:

The following questions **do not require reference to the 2019-2020 Budget** to be answered. They can be answered from existing Agency data.

Note 2:

If there is to be a Whole of Government response to any of the questions, it would be appreciated that these are referred early to the Minister responsible to enable a response within the same timeframe as the remainder of the questions.

BUDGET

1. What efficiency dividend, budget improvement or savings measures has each Agency been asked to achieve in framing the 2019/20 Budget? When was this direction given and what specific instructions were provided to achieve this result?

STAFFING

2. Please provide details for the following staffing questions as at 30 June 2018, 31 December 2018 and as at 31 March 2019:
 - a) How many staff were employed in the following categories:
 - i. Full time equivalent
 - ii. Permanent part time contract
 - iii. Contract
 - b) Please advise the number of staff identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in terms of FTE and as a percentage of the Agency total employment (all classifications).
 - c) Please advise the number of frontline staff as FTE and as a percentage of the Agency total employment (all classifications).

3. What is the variance in FTE from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019?
4. Please advise, in each category:
 - a) The total number of staff on contracts (by executive and temporary employment contracts) as at 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019
 - b) By position, the levels at which staff are employed on executive or temporary employment contracts as at 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019
 - c) By position, when each current contract is due to be renewed
5. For the full financial year ending 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019 how many staff:
 - a) Resigned
 - b) Were demoted as a result of job evaluation or re-evaluation
 - c) Were made redundant
 - d) Were terminated
6. How many staff were unattached or categorized as redeployees for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019?
7. How many staff were categorized as supernumerary for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019?
8. How many staff have been engaged through employment agency arrangements, for what purpose, for what duration and at what cost for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2018?
9. How many locums have been employed, for what purpose, what duration and at what cost for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019?
10. How many positions had Special Measures applied when advertised for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019?

11. How many positions that had Special Measures applied, as referred to in the question above, had to be re-advertised due to the initial process not securing suitable candidates?
12. Please advise the number of staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as at 30 June 2018 and the increase in staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander since 1 July 2018 as at 31 December 2018 and as at 31 March 2019.
13. How many grievances have arisen as a direct result of the Special Measures program since 1 July 2018. Of these, how many remain unresolved?

OUTSOURCING

14. For the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019, detail any decision(s) to outsource, contract out or privatise functions that have traditionally been carried out by the Agency. Is consideration being given to outsource, contract-out or privatise in financial year 2019/20? If so, provide details.

LEGAL EXPENSES

15. What has been the expenditure on legal advice or related expenses for the financial year 2018/19? Provide details on:
 - a) The matter(s) (designate which ones are finalised and which ones are ongoing)
 - b) The amount paid by matter
 - c) The amount paid to each outside legal firm or barrister engaged

PROCUREMENT / CONSULTANCIES

16. For the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019, please detail expenditure on each report and consultancy (excluding annual reports) that has been obtained from outside the NTPS. For each report/consultancy detail:
 - a) Purpose
 - b) Cost
 - c) Person or entity engaged
 - d) Whether the person or entity has their principal place of business in the Northern Territory or elsewhere (if elsewhere, please provide the address of the principal place of business of the person or entity)
 - e) Whether a report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly as a result of the report or consultancy
 - f) Outcomes or key performance indicators for the report or consultancy

- g) Whether tenders or expressions of interest were invited prior to work on the report or consultancy being undertaken
17. Please detail expenditure paid, or expected to be paid, to Hawker Britton and/or associated entities for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending March 2019. Outline the tasks performed.
 18. How many contracts and tenders have been awarded to business entities with their principal place of business in the Northern Territory so far, and what works have been undertaken?
 19. How many contracts have been awarded to business entities with a principal place of business outside the Northern Territory for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019? Detail the work being undertaken by each business entity and the selection criteria for the successful business entity on the applicable contract or tender.
 20. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many public quotations were undertaken during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019?
 21. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many contracts or tenders were awarded without undertaking a public quotation process during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019?
 22. For each instance identified in the question above, where a public quotation process was not undertaken, including for Certificates of Exemption:
 - a) What is the description of the goods and services contracted?
 - b) What is the value of the goods and services contracted?
 - c) What was the reason for not using the public quotation process or for requiring a Certificate of Exemption?
 - d) Who recommended the course of action in c) above?
 - e) Who approved the course of action in c) above?
 23. Please advise the total number of NTG Corporate Credit Cards within the Agency, including the position titles and levels of the staff holding the corporate credit cards for the purchase of goods and/or services as at 31 March 2019.

FOCUS GROUPS / POLLING / SURVEYS

24. Please detail expenditure during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019 on opinion polls and focus groups, including costs and entities that conducted the work.
25. Please provide copies of the surveys identified in the question above and detail all surveys undertaken, their form, the cost and what inducements were provided to incentivise participation during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

26. Please detail expenditure on advertising and communications during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2018.
For each advertisement for which an expense was incurred:
 - a) What was the purpose / description of the advertisement?
 - b) Who was the advertisement placed with, i.e. media outlet, newspaper, television station or similar?
 - c) What was the total production cost, including, but not limited to, design, commissions, placement costs?
 - d) Were tenders or expressions of interest called? If not, why not?

TRAVEL

27. Please provide the total expenditure and itemised details of travel, including, but not limited to travel-related costs such as accommodation, travel allowance, entertainment, car rental, meals and incidentals, in each Agency and authority for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019 broken down to:
 - a) International travel
 - b) Interstate travel
 - c) Intrastate travel
28. In the case of international travel identified in response to the question above, please provide the purpose, itinerary, persons and costs involved in each trip.
29. Please provide itemised details and itemisation of costs of all travel undertaken by the Minister that was paid for by the Agency or authority, including travel on charters during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.

HOSPITALITY / FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

30. Please provide full details of all public service hospitality provided for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
- In relation to each occasion on which official hospitality was undertaken:
- a) What was the purpose of the hospitality?
 - b) How many guests attended?
 - c) How many Ministers attended?
 - d) How many Ministerial staff attended?
 - e) How many MLAs attended?
 - f) How many Public Sector employees attended?
 - g) What was the total cost incurred?

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

31. Please detail expenditure on grants and donations paid by your Agency (including the recipient of each grant) during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
32. Please detail the funds utilised to distribute awards and sponsorships in the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and in the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019. Indicate which awards and sponsorships were managed by Regional Offices. What is anticipated for the 2019/20 financial year?
33. Please detail the amounts paid on grants to non-Government organisations for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018 and for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019, including to which organisation and the services to be provided?

MEDIA MONITORING SERVICES

34. Provide expenditure details on media monitoring services for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019 (including entities engaged and who utilises the service).

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

35. What are the details, by project, of re-voted capital works in all Department and Government Authorities for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019?

36. How many projects have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted to Infrastructure Australia to be considered for the Infrastructure Priority List?
37. Please provide details of newly committed projects for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
38. Please provide details of contracts awarded to interstate firms, for what purpose, the cost and why a Territory firm was not chosen.

GOVERNMENT LEASED BUILDINGS

39. What is the total annual power bill of each Government building owned/leased/used by each Department for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019?
40. What is the total annual leased space of each Government building used by each Agency/authority and at what cost for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019?
41. How much Government owned or leased premises or office space is currently under-utilised (at less than 100 per cent occupied) or vacant?

FEES AND CHARGES

42. Please detail the statutory or legislative fees and charges levied by your Agency/authority, the revenue raised in the 2018/19 financial year and whether any of these fees and charges was increased following the passage of the 2018/19 financial year budget.

INTERNAL AUDITS

43. How many internal audits and financial investigations were conducted in the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019?
44. What were the terms of reference or focus for each investigation?
45. Please provide detail of any fraud, anomalies, breaches of financial legislation or Northern Territory Government policy and procedures exposed by the audits and financial investigations.

BOARDS / ADVISORY BODIES

46. Please detail all boards and advisory bodies in your Agency in 2018/19, also providing the following information:
- a) The Terms of Reference
 - b) The current members and when they were appointed
 - c) The total remuneration paid to each Board member during the 2018/19 financial year
 - d) The itemised total cost incurred by the Board during the 2018/19 financial year
 - e) The number of times the Board met during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019

REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

47. Details of all reviews and inquiries completed or commenced during the 2018/19 financial year, also providing the following information:
- a) The Terms of Reference
 - b) The criteria for selection of all panel members
 - c) The composition, qualifications and state or territory of residence of the persons undertaking the review/inquiry
 - d) The cost of the review/inquiry
 - e) How the information was/is accumulated to contribute to the review/inquiry
 - f) If completed, when, the outcome and whether the report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly
 - g) If not completed when this is expected

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

48. Please provide the number, nature and cost of reportable safety issues for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
49. Please detail the number of stress related matters and claims for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.

REGIONAL OFFICES

50. Please detail expenditure on staff located in regional offices across the Territory. Include the number of staff, their functions and outcomes achieved in the 2018/19 financial year. What are the locations for which they are responsible?

ANSWERS - NT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

1. The Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office (NTAGO) has been provided with an efficiency dividend of 3% in the 2019-20 financial year. The direction was given in March 2019, and no specific instructions were provided to achieve this result.

The NTAGO has been asked to achieve whole-of-government savings of \$9,000 for the 2019-20 financial year. The direction was provided in April 2019 as part of the root and branch review.

2. Staffing details for the NTAGO are as follows:
 - a. As at 30 June 2018, 31 December 2018 and 31 March 2019, the NTAGO had a total of 5.0 FTE:

No	Detail	FTE
i.	Full time equivalent	2.0
ii.	Permanent part time contract	0.0
iii.	Contract	3.0

- b. As at 30 June 2018, 31 December 2018 and 31 March 2019, no staff identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander within the NTAGO.
 - c. As at 30 June 2018, 31 December 2018 and 31 March 2019, all staff were employed primarily to facilitate the delivery of audit services notwithstanding no staff members have a role that deals directly with the general public. All three executive contract officers deal directly with the agencies and entities subject to audit.
3. The NTAGO had no variance in FTE from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018, and from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
4. The NTAGO had the following staff on executive contracts:
 - a. As at 30 June 2018, 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019, the total number of staff on executive contracts was 3.0 FTE.
 - b. As at 30 June 2018, 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019, the following are the levels at which staff are employed on executive contracts by position:
 - i. Auditor-General – Executive Contract Officer 5
 - ii. Principal Auditor 1 - Executive Contract Officer 1
 - iii. Principal Auditor 2 – Executive Contract Officer 1
 - c. The executive contract officers have the following contract expiry:
 - i. Auditor-General – 12 September 2019
 - ii. Principal Auditor 1 – 11 July 2020
 - iii. Principal Auditor 2 – 14 January 2021

5. The following table shows the NTAGO had the following number of staff in each description for the two periods indicated:

Description	30 June 2018 financial year	1 July to 31 December 2018	1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019
a. Resigned	1.0	0.0	0.0
b. Were demoted as a result of job evaluation or re-evaluation	0.0	0.0	0.0
c. Were made redundant	0.0	0.0	0.0
d. Were terminated	0.0	0.0	0.0

6. The NTAGO had no staff unattached or categorised as redeployees for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018, from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
7. The NTAGO had no staff categorised as supernumerary for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018, from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
8. The NTAGO had no staff engaged through employment agency arrangements for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018, from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
9. This question is not applicable for the NTAGO.
10. The NTAGO had no positions advertised with Special Measures for the full financial year ending 30 June 2018, from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
11. Not applicable due to nil positions advertised with Special Measures.
12. The NTAGO had no staff identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as at 30 June 2018, from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
13. Not applicable due to nil positions advertised with Special Measures.
14. The NTAGO had no instances to outsource, contract out or privatise functions that have traditionally been carried out by the Agency.
- No consideration is being given to outsource, contract-out or privatise functions that have traditionally been carried out by the Agency in financial year 2019-20.
15. The NTAGO had no expenditure on legal advice or related expenses for the financial year 2018-19.

16. The NTAGO has outsourced the majority of audit tasks since the Office was established in 1982. Outsourcing costs related to the delivery of audit services is classified as consultancy cost.

The panel of providers for the current audit services contract which was effective 2 January 2018 for a period of 36 months, is comprised of seven audit firms (BDO Audit, Deloitte, KPMG, Merit Partners, TDH Chartered Accountants, Nexia Edwards Marshall and Lowrys Accountants).

In accordance with the *Audit Act 1995*, a strategic review of the NTAGO was conducted with Mr Mike Blake appointed as reviewer. Mr Blake's report was tabled in November 2018.

Consultancy expenditure for the NTAGO is as follows for the two periods:

Consultancy expenditure	1 July 2018 to 31 Dec 2018	1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019
Authorised Auditor fees*	\$2,079,168.58	\$3,001,782.87
NTAGO Strategic Review fees (incurred Nov 2018)	\$17,739.60	\$17,739.60
Total Consultancy expenditure	\$2,096,908.18	\$3,019,522.47

*The breakdown of Authorised Auditors fees per audit firm is as follows:

Audit firm	1 July 2018 to 31 Dec 2018	1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019
BDO Audit (NT)	\$512,912.44	\$625,597.31
Deloitte (NT)	\$563,070.47	\$763,291.23
KPMG (NT)	\$154,291.64	\$431,494.73
Lowrys Accountants (NT)	\$66,520.00	\$114,777.97
Merit Partners (NT)	\$490,701.06	\$678,006.81
Nexia Edwards Marshall (NT)	\$154,697.97	\$184,674.70
TDH Chartered Accountants (NT)	\$136,975.00	\$203,940.12
Total Authorised Auditor fees	\$2,079,168.58	\$3,001,782.87

17. The NTAGO did not incur any expenditure to Hawker Britton and/or associated entities for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 and for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
18. The NTAGO had no contracts awarded from the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019. The last contract awarded by the NTAGO was in October 2017 for the *Provision of Audit Services to the NT Auditor-General for a period of 36 months*.
19. Not applicable, as the NTAGO had no contracts awarded from the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.

20. Not applicable, as the NTAGO had no Tier 3, 4 and 5 procurement activity during the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
21. Not applicable, as the NTAGO had no Tier 3, 4 and 5 procurement activity during the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
22. Not applicable, as the NTAGO had no Tier 3, 4 and 5 procurement activity during the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.
23. The NTAGO has one NTG Corporate Credit Card within the agency and the cardholder is the Manager Finance and Corporate (Administrative Officer 7) for purchases of goods and/or services as at 31 March 2019.
24. The NTAGO had no expenditure on opinion polls and focus groups during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
25. Not applicable as no opinion polls and focus groups were conducted per response to question 24 above.
26. The NTAGO had no expenditure on advertising and communications during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
27. The NTAGO's details of travel undertaken for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019 are as follows:

Types of Travel	Travel-Related Costs
a. International Travel	Nil
b. Interstate Travel	\$4,625
c. Intrastate Travel	Nil

28. The NTAGO had no international travel undertaken as per the response in Question 27.
29. The NTAGO paid for no ministerial travel for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
30. The NTAGO had not provided any public service hospitality for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
31. The NTAGO paid no grants and donations during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
32. The NTAGO paid no awards and sponsorships during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019. The NTAGO does not anticipate to distribute awards and sponsorships in the 2019/20 financial year.
33. The NTAGO paid no grants to non-Government organisations for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.

34. The NTAGO had no media monitoring services expenditure for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
35. The NTAGO had no capital works planned, undertaken or re-voted for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
36. The NTAGO had no projects submitted or in the process of being submitted to Infrastructure Australia for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
37. The NTAGO had no newly committed projects for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
38. The NTAGO had no contracts awarded to interstate firms for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
39. The NTAGO's power expenditure for the period beginning 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019 was \$1,257.14.
40. A whole-of-government response to Question 40 to 41 will be provided by the Minister for Corporate and Information Services.
41. A whole-of-government response to Question 40 to 41 will be provided by the Minister for Corporate and Information Services.
42. As at 31 March 2019, the NTAGO had recoverable audit costs for the audits of statutory entities and audits not directly related to the audit of the Public Account of \$1,470,501.08. This is classified as sales of goods and services in the agency's Budget papers.

The NTAGO had no non-audit related statutory or legislative fees and charges, consequently there has been no increase to fees and charges following the passage of the 2018-19 financial year budget.

43. The NTAGO conducted one internal audit in relation to compliance with the Northern Territory Government Travel policy framework for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
44. The terms of reference for the internal audit conducted was to assess the individual compliance of all travel undertaken by the NTAGO with the Northern Territory Government Travel policy framework.

Findings of the internal audit conducted:

Two travel transactions were reviewed during the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019 and were all found to be compliant with all aspects of the Travel policy framework.

45. No fraud, anomalies, breaches of financial legislation or Northern Territory Government policy and procedures was identified as a result of internal audits or the independent annual financial statement audit.

46. The NTAGO does not have any boards or advisory bodies.
47. The NTAGO undergone one review during the 2018/19 financial year, which was for the Office's strategic review (conducted every three years) in accordance with the *Audit Act 1995*. The Terms of Reference and selection of the reviewer from interstate was conducted by the Department of the Chief Minister's Cabinet Office unit to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. The strategic review report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November 2018.

The total cost of the strategic review was \$17,739.60 as included in the response to question 16 above for consulting fees.

48. The NTAGO had no reportable safety issues for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
49. The NTAGO had no stress related matters and claims for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 March 2019.
50. The NTAGO has no regional offices across the Territory.