

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 19 June 2019

Subject: Diversion Programs

From: Mr Terry Mills MLA

To: Minister for Territory Families

Agency: Territory Families

Number: 10.7

Question: I request the provision of all data related to the activities of the mentioned programs — Saltbush, Jesuits and Flinders — in the past 12 months.

Answer:

All answers are provided for 2018-19, nine month period to 31 March 2019, unless otherwise stated.

Youth Bail Support Accommodation Services

- Services are provided by Saltbush Bail Support Accommodation Services in Darwin and Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services and Saltbush in Alice Springs.
- Services include bail support accommodation, bail supervision and a bail support and referral telephone line. This service is also available to youth on other Court Orders (e.g. Good Behaviour Orders or Suspended Sentences).
- From 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019, there were 93 separate periods of bail support across the three services, totalling 2,576 bed nights. During these 93 periods, a young person's bail order was breached and terminated on 23 occasions (25 per cent).
- Of the instances where young people have been accommodated in a supported bail service during this period, approximately 75 per cent have successfully completed their bail order. This was broadly consistent across the three provider sites.

Operation Flinders

- Of the 62 young people who have completed the Operation Flinders camp since it commenced in the Northern Territory, 49 (78%) have not reoffended.
- Between 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019, 21 young people completed the Operation Flinders Program.
- As of 13 May 2019, 19 out of the 21 participants (90%) have not committed offences since attending the camp intervention program and the young people who have remained engaged with the Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Team have made positive changes to their lives as a result of the camp.

- A further cohort of young men from Darwin attended Operation Flinders and returned from their camp on 16 May 2019. All young people in the group successfully completed the program and reports from both the YORET and the Operation Flinders staff members indicate that this camp was extremely successful.
- Eight young women from Darwin have left to attend Operation Flinders (19 June 2019).

Jesuit Social Services - Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing (Pre-Sentence)

- Jesuit Social Services have convened 12 Pre-Sentence or other Court referred restorative youth justice conferences during the estimates period.
- 58 conferences have been convened since the inception of the pilot program in January 2017 to 31 March 2019.
- Territory Families is currently working with Jesuit Social Services to complete a formal evaluation of the pilot service, and the evaluation is expected to be completed by August 2019. The period being evaluated is January 2017 – February 2019.
- Preliminary analysis of feedback from victims who have attended the conferences indicates a high level of victim satisfaction in the process.
- Pre-sentences conferencing is a sub-set of the Restorative Youth Justice Conference System. There were 10 pre-sentence and Court referred victim-offender conferences, 61 youth diversion victim-offender conferences and 210 youth diversion family group conferences recorded between 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019.