

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 12 June 2019

Subject: Baseline data for Alice Springs cycle of crime

From: Mr Gary Higgins MLA

To: Chief Minister

Agency: Department of the Chief Minister

Number: 3.4

Question: Can we get the baseline data for the Alice Springs cycle of crime tabled?

Answer:

An external evaluation of the Summer in Alice school holiday campaign 2017-2018 was conducted by Charles Darwin University, which provided high level baseline data against which future assessments can be made.

Data included:

- Crime rates during the 2017-2018 summer holiday period dropped, compared to the 2016-2017 summer holiday period. Youth crime data from the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice shows that the total number of offences allegedly committed by young people during the period December 2017 to January 2018 was down by 50 per cent, compared to 2016-2017.
- The number of SupportLink referrals increased during December 2017 to January 2018, compared to the same time the previous year. According to NT Police, SupportLink referrals totalled 404 for December 2017 to January 2018, compared to 257 for the same period the previous year. General referrals declined slightly from 20 for the 2016-2017 summer holiday period, to 16 for the same period in 2017-2018.
- High attendance and engagement of young people was observed at most campaign activities; and their opinions were positive.
- Young people in Alice Springs participating in the holiday activities indicated they valued the school holiday program highly, and felt their needs were recognised in the activities offered. The various venues were valued for the differentiated experiences they offered young people. There were high attendance rates, which totalled around 3300.
- By way of comparison, one of the two youth drop-in centres, Gap Youth and Community Centre, recorded 2098 attendances by young people for the month of May 2019.
- The funding of extended hours of service at youth drop-in centres under the Breaking the Cycle initiative builds on a Charles Darwin University evaluation finding that greater return on investment occurs when activities are delivered at the well-established youth service venues.