

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Boothby to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs:

Veterans' Affairs Budget

During estimates on 22 June 2021, I asked you why Veterans Affairs did not have its own budget output. You responded saying:

"Any finances involved for Veterans' Affairs are in the Northern Australia Development output and are not separately published, which is why there may be some confusion. The Budget variation for Veterans' Affairs sits within Northern Australia Development Market Engagement and Trade output in the whole-of-agency briefing number two. It sits within the portfolio brief of Minister Manison".

Questions:

1. Why does Minister Manison have responsibility for the Veterans' Affairs budget when it is your Ministerial portfolio?
2. Why doesn't Veterans' Affairs have its own budget output that you can report on?
3. Why is there nothing in 2021-22 Budget papers about Veterans' Affairs, its budget and its expenditure?
4. During estimates I asked if you had details of the actual expenditure for Veterans' Affairs. You responded "We will take that on notice and see if we can find out the expenditure for Veterans' Affairs over the course of the year". What have you found?
5. Should we ask Minister Manison questions about Veterans' Affairs budget and expenditure?
6. Where is the \$5 million the Federal Government gave the NTG for Veterans Affairs? Is this sitting in the Budget Output for Northern Australia Development, market engagement and trade? Is it being spent on Northern Australia Development Market Engagement and Trade?

Answer:

1. Minister Manison does not have responsibility for this portfolio. I (the Hon Paul Kirby MLA) am the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.
2. Funding for the Defence and Veterans Engagement team sits within the DefenceNT budget, alongside funding for defence industry and defence and national security activities and initiatives.

The DefenceNT budget is reported as a line item in the 2021-22 Budget papers.

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4. Expenditure in 2020-21 for the Defence and Veterans Engagement unit within DefenceNT was \$181 000.
5. Refer to the answer to Question 1.
6. The Commonwealth Government did not give the NT Government \$5 million for Veterans Affairs.