



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 224

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Uibo to the Minister for Children and Families, Hon Robyn Cahill OAM
MLA:

Department of Children and Families Administration

STAFFING

1. (a) Please advise the number of staff employed in the following categories as of 31 March 2026:

Category	FTE	Head Count (Actual)	NT-based	Located outside NT
1. Ongoing Full Time				
2. Ongoing Part Time				
3. Fixed Term Full Time				
4. Fixed Term Part Time				
5. Casual Contract				
6. Executive Contract				

- (b) Please provide, **for each of the six categories above:**
the relevant position classifications and the number of staff employed against each classification.
- (c) Where there is a difference between FTE and Headcount (Actual), please provide an explanation for the difference, including any reasons for the use of part-time and casual positions within the overall workforce profile.

2. Please advise the number of staff held against the following categories as of 31 March 2026:

Category	Number
Resigned	
Made Redundant	
Terminated	

Unattached	
Classified Redeployee	
Supernumerary	

3. Please advise the number of staff identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as of 31 March 2026.

Category	Number
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	

4. (a) Please advise the number of Frontline staff as FTE as of 31 March 2026 and as a percentage of the Agency's total employment.

Category	Number	%age of Total Staff
Frontline		

5. Please advise how many staff have been engaged through labour hire, employment agency arrangements and/or consultancy contracts, for what purpose, for what duration and at what cost as of 31 March 2026. Please use the table format presented below for your response.

Number Engaged	Labour Hire / Employment Agency / Consultancy	Purpose	Duration	Cost

6. Please advise how many **locums** have been employed, for what purpose, duration, and at what cost as of 31 March 2026. Please use the table format presented below for your response.

Number Employed	Purpose	Duration	Cost

7. (a) How many positions were advertised during the period 1 July

2025 to 31 March 2026?

- (b) Of the total number advertised in 7(a), how many positions had Special Measures applied?
- (c) Please break down the levels of positions that had Special Measures applied.
- (d) How many positions that had Special Measures applied were not able to be filled against these requirements during this period and required contract or backfilling arrangements?

OUTSOURCING

8. (a) For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, detail any decision(s) to outsource, contract out or privatise functions that have traditionally been carried out by the Agency.

(b) Is consideration being given to outsource, contract-out or privatise any functions in this Department in financial year 2026/27? If so, provide details.

LEGAL EXPENSES

9. What has been the expenditure on legal advice or related expenses for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026? Provide details on:
- a) The matter(s) (designate which are finalised and which are ongoing)
 - b) The amount paid by matter
 - c) The amount paid to each outside legal firm or barrister engaged

PROCUREMENT / CONSULTANCIES

10. From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, please detail expenditure on each report and consultancy (excluding annual reports) 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

11. Please advise the number of contracts awarded to business entities with a principal place of business in the NT and outside the NT for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 as follows:

Number in the NT	Number outside of the NT

12. For each of the contracts awarded to business entities with a principal place of business outside of the Northern Territory, please advise the selection criteria on the applicable contract or tender.

Contract	Business Entity	Address	Selection Criteria

13. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many public tenders were advertised during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026?

14. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many contracts or tenders were awarded without undertaking a public tender process during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026?

15. For each instance identified in the question above, where a public quotation process was not undertaken, including for those with a Certificate 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 tender 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?

16. 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 purchasing goods and/or services as of 31 March 2026?

17. For each contract awarded to a non-Territory enterprise:

- a) Was a Territory enterprise shortlisted? If not, why not?
- b) What weighting was given to local content?
- c) Did the procurement process include a local industry participation requirement?

18. What percentage of total procurement spend was awarded to:

- a) Interstate businesses
- b) International businesses

FOCUS GROUPS / POLLING / SURVEYS

For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026:

- 19. Please detail expenditure on opinion polls and focus groups, including costs and entities that conducted the work.
- 20. Detail all surveys undertaken in relation to the focus groups and opinion polls above, including their form, the cost and the inducements that were provided to incentivise participation.
- 21. Please provide copies of each survey and the results of each survey.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

22. Please detail expenditure on advertising and communications during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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, digital platform, or other?
- c) What was the total production cost, including, but not limited to, design, commissions, and placement costs?
- d) Were tenders or expressions of interest called? If not, why not?
- e) Did the agency enter into any separate arrangements for

advertising placements or advertorials? If so, please provide details of expenditures and media outlets.

TRAVEL

23. 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 during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 broken down to:

- a) International Travel
- b) Interstate Travel
- c) Intrastate Travel

24. 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.

25. Please provide itemised details and costs of all travel undertaken by the Minister that was paid for by the Agency or authority, including travel on charters during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

26. Please provide itemised details and costs of all travel undertaken by any Assistant Minister that was paid for by the Agency or authority, including travel on charters during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

HOSPITALITY / FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

27. Please provide full details of all official hospitality provided for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

In relation to each occasion where official hospitality was provided:

- 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, SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS AND INCENTIVES

28. Please detail expenditure on grants, sponsorships, donations and incentives paid by your Agency (including the recipient of each payment) during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, including agency budget totals to administer such programs.
29. Please detail the funds utilised to distribute awards and sponsorships in the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, and to what activities. Please list details of any contract periods as part of any arrangement.
30. Indicate which awards and sponsorships were managed by Regional Offices. What is anticipated for the 2026/27 financial year?
31. Please detail the amounts paid on grants, donations and incentives to non-Government organisations for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, including to which organisation and the services to be provided?

MEDIA MONITORING SERVICES

32. Provide expenditure details on media monitoring services for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 (including entities engaged and who utilises the service).

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

33. How many projects have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted to Infrastructure Australia or Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) to be considered for the Infrastructure Priority List?
34. Please provide details of newly committed projects for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.
35. Please provide details of contracts awarded to interstate firms, the purpose of the contract, the cost, and why a territory firm was not chosen.

GOVERNMENT LEASED BUILDINGS

36. What is the total annual power bill of each Government building owned/leased/used by this Department for the period 1 July 2025

to 31 March 2026?

37. What is the total annual leased space of each Government building used by this Agency/authority and at what cost for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026?

38. How much Government owned or leased premises or office space is currently under-utilised (at less than 100 per cent occupied) or vacant?

39. Please detail all expenditure for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 incurred by the Agency on repairs, maintenance or replacement of assets as a direct result of:

- a) Vandalism
- b) Theft
- c) Property damage associated with criminal activity

40. For each instance:

- a) Nature of damage
- b) Location/ region (table)
- c) Cost

41. What preventative measures has the Agency implemented to reduce crime-related damage to assets?

FEES AND CHARGES

42. Please detail the statutory or legislative fees and charges levied by your Agency/authority, the revenue raised in the 2025/26 financial year and whether any of these fees and charges were increased following the 2026 budget.

INTERNAL AUDITS

43. How many internal audits and financial investigations were conducted in the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026?

44. What were the terms of reference or focus for each investigation?

45. Please provide details of any fraud, anomalies, breaches of financial legislation or Northern Territory Government policy and

procedures exposed by the audits and financial investigations.

46. How many agencies have been referred to existing bodies, e.g. Auditor- General/Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), and how?

47. How many have been resolved? Please detail the agency referred to, the date of referral and the date resolved, including those with multiple referrals.

BOARDS / ADVISORY BODIES

48. Please detail all boards and advisory bodies in your Agency in 2025/26, also providing the following information:

- a) The Terms of Reference, if changed since the election.
- b) The current members and when they were appointed

49. The number of times the Board met during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

50. Details of all reviews and inquiries completed or commenced since 1 July 2025, 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

51. Please provide a comprehensive list of all:

- a) Policies.
- b) Procedures.
- c) Guidelines.
- d) Discussion papers.
- e) Briefing papers.
- f) Reports.
- g) Reviews.

- h) Media releases.
- i) Internal communications intended for external publication.
- j) Submissions to Federal Parliamentary Inquiries and other inquiries by Independent Agencies.
- k) Responses to reviews and inquiries

issued or updated between 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

52. For each document listed:

- a) Date of issue.
- b) Whether publicly released.
- c) If not publicly released, why not.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

53. Please provide the number, nature and cost of reportable safety issues for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

54. Please detail the number of stress-related matters and claims for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

REGIONAL OFFICES

55. Please detail expenditure on staff located in regional offices across the Territory. Include the number of staff, their functions and outcomes achieved since 1 July 2025. What are the locations for which they are responsible?

GENERAL

56. Is the Government intending to undertake a review of the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007? If so what are the terms of reference and scope for the Government's plan to review the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007?

57. If the Government is intending to undertake a review of the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007, can the Minister share the list of stakeholders who have been or will be consulted as part of this review?

58. Can the Government please provide the evidence which has been relied on to inform the decision to undertake a review of the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007?

59. Can the Minister please provide the number of children and young people in out-of-home care during 2024-25 disaggregated by age:

- i. 0-2
- ii. 2-4
- iii. 5-9
- iv. 10-14
- v. 15-17

60. Can the Minister please provide the number of children and young people in out-of-home care as at 31/03/2026 disaggregated by age:

- i. 0-2
- ii. 2-4
- iii. 5-9
- iv. 10-14
- v. 15-17

61. Can the Minister provide the following information:

As at 31/03/2026, what is the number of children and young people in out-of-home care who have a leaving care plan, disaggregated by:

- a) Age
 - i. 15
 - ii. 16
 - iii. 17
- b) Gender
- c) Aboriginality
 - i. Aboriginal
 - ii. Non-aboriginal
 - iii. Unknown
- d) Disability
 - i. Disability
 - ii. No disability

62. Can the Government provide the following information:

As at 31/03/2026 how many children and young people in out-of-home care do not have a care plan, disaggregated by:

- a) Age groupings
 - i. 0-2
 - ii. 2-4
 - iii. 5-9
 - iv. 10-14
 - v. 15-17
- b) Gender
- c) Aboriginality
 - i. Aboriginal
 - ii. Non-aboriginal
 - iii. Unknown
- d) Disability
 - i. Disability
 - ii. No disability
- e) Reason why they do not have a plan

63. From the 2024-25 budget, can the Minister provide the following information on out of home care service funding:

Out-of-home care	Expenditure
Purchased home based care	
Kinship care services	
Foster care services	
Foster and Kinship Care Association NT	
Total	

64. For 1 December 2024 to 31 March 2026, please provide the following information on out of home care service funding:

Out-of-home care	Expenditure
Purchased home based care	
Kinship care services	
Foster care services	

Foster and Kinship Care Association NT	
Total	

65. How many children and young people have been engaged with the Circuit Breaker program during 12/12/2024 to 31/03/2026? Could the data be disaggregated by:

- a) Age
- b) Region
- c) Type of engagement (for example returned home, located responsible adult, sourced temporary accommodation)
- d) Outcome of engagement (case management, referral to specialist service, family responsibility agreement etc)

66. How many children and young people were referred to specialist services? Could the Minister provide the data disaggregated by:

- a) Age
- b) Gender
- c) Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal
- d) Reason for referral
- e) Outcome of referral (for example case closed, matter subsumed into an open child protection case etc)

67. How many children and young people engaged through the Circuit Breaker program during 12/12/2024 to 31/03/2026:

- a) Had no prior child protection notifications
- b) Were subject to prior child protection notification
- c) Were subject to prior child protection substantiations
- d) Were under care and protection orders
- e) Were under prior care and protection orders
- f) Were under prior care and protection orders and also had youth detention orders

68. How many children and young people have been provided a 'safe place' to sleep through the Circuit Breaker program during 30/09/2024 to 31/03/2026? Could the Minister please provide the

data disaggregated by bed nights, region and age of the child.

69. Through Circuit Breaker, how many children and young people have been placed on Intensive Case Management support due to their risk of becoming involved with child protection or youth justice? Could the data be disaggregated by:

- a) Age
- b) Reason for referral
- c) Status of referral (for example open case, case closed due to...)

70. According to the Government's media release of 7 September 2025, the Circuit Breaker program is helping with early intervention and prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence. What child-specific domestic and family violence programs, supports or interventions have been offered, undertaken or completed by children and young people who are engaging in or at risk of engaging in domestic, family and sexual violence behaviour during 30/09/2024 to 31/03/2026?

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

71. What policies and procedures are in place to identify, declare and manage conflicts of interest in:

- a) Procurement processes
- b) Grant allocation processes

72. How many conflicts of interest were declared in the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 in:

- a) Procurement.
- b) Grants programs.

73. For each declared conflict of interest:

- a) What mitigation measures were implemented?
- b) Was the individual excluded from decision-making?

74. Were any breaches of conflict-of-interest policies identified? If so:

- a) Provide details.
- b) What actions were taken?

75. Are conflict-of-interest declarations independently audited or reviewed? If so, by whom? Please provide copies of any conflict-of-interest guidelines, policies or training materials used by the Agency.

OPERATIONAL SAVINGS

76. Please identify all savings measures implemented by the Agency to contribute to the Government's \$20 million per annum, per agency operational savings target, including:

- a) Description of each measure
- b) Estimated savings
- c) Actual savings achieved to date

77. Please identify any reductions in:

- a) Staffing
- b) Programs
- c) Service delivery resulting from these savings measures.

78. What impact assessments were undertaken prior to implementing these savings?

79. Have any services been reduced, delayed or discontinued as a result of these savings measures? If so, provide details.

80. What reductions have been made in the following categories:

- a) Consultancies
- b) Travel
- c) Communications and marketing
- d) Other discretionary spending

81. Please quantify how much has been saved in each of the above categories.

82. Please provide any internal reports or advice identifying service delivery risks within the Agency for 2025–26.

83. Please identify any programs or services where demand exceeded available funding or capacity.

84. Please provide details of any projects or programs delayed due to budget constraints or resourcing issues.

COST PRESSURES

85. What specific programs, policies or initiatives, for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 has the Agency implemented or contributed to in the reporting period to reduce cost of living pressures for Territorians? Please detail:

- a) Target cohort
- b) Budget allocation
- c) Measurable outcomes or KPIs

86. Has the Agency undertaken any modelling or analysis of cost-of-living pressures relevant to its portfolio? If so:

- a) Please provide copies
- b) What policy changes have resulted?
- c) Cost of modelling

87. Please identify any fees, charges or cost-recovery mechanisms administered by the Agency that have increased since 1 July 2025, including:

- a) Amount of increase
- b) Rationale
- c) Estimated impact on households/businesses

88. What steps has the Agency taken to ensure government services delivered by the Agency are accessible and affordable, particularly in remote and regional areas?

89. Has the Agency reviewed any programs or services to reduce out-of-pocket costs for users? If so, provide details and outcomes.

90. Please quantify any savings to households or businesses that have resulted from Agency initiatives since 1 July 2025.

91. What additional costs has the Agency incurred during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 as a result of increases in fuel prices? Please detail:

- a) Total additional expenditure attributable to fuel price increases.
- b) Impact on operational budgets (including service delivery, logistics, and regional operations).
- c) Any mitigation strategies implemented to manage these increased costs.

92. What additional costs has the Agency incurred during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 as a result of increases in airfares? Please detail:

- a) Total additional expenditure attributable to airfare increases.
- b) Impact on travel requirements, including any reduction, deferral or substitution of travel.
- c) Any changes to service delivery, stakeholder engagement or program implementation as a result.

COMPLAINTS

93. Number of complaints received about Agency services, broken down by category, complainant (internal or external) and outcome.

OTHER EXPENDITURE

94. Please provide details for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 on the following matters:

a) Whether the Agency or Ministerial Offices utilise artificial intelligence or other digital services to enhance or promote social media or public communications, including:

- a) The name and purpose of each service used.
- b) Total expenditure on such services.

b) All paid subscriptions held by the Agency, including:

- a) Type and purpose (e.g. software, data services, publications, memberships).
- b) Total cost of each subscription.
- c) Whether each subscription has been reviewed for cost efficiency or ongoing necessity.

c) Expenditure on the production of Government materials in Aboriginal languages and culturally and linguistically diverse

(CALD) languages, including:

- a) Languages materials were produced in.
- b) Total cost.

d) The number of instances where non-government organisations or private entities have assisted the Agency.

e) The number of consultations, engagements or community meetings that were cancelled, rescheduled or postponed due to the unavailability of interpreters, including the language required.

f) Reimbursements made to staff, including:

- a) Total value of reimbursements (including fuel and work-related purchases).
- b) The types of expenses reimbursed.
- c) Average processing time for reimbursement.

g) Heritage-listed buildings under the Agency's responsibility that have received, or are scheduled to receive, repairs or maintenance, including:

- a) Description of works undertaken or planned.
- b) Total cost.

h) Expenditure associated with Government-hosted or Government-attended events, including:

- a) Traffic management and control costs.
- b) Policing, security or crowd control costs.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

95. Please detail all media enquiries received by the Agency during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, including:

- a) The date each enquiry was received.
- b) The media outlet or individual making the enquiry.
- c) The subject matter of the enquiry.

d) The date a response was provided

96. For each enquiry where no response was provided, please detail the reasons why no response was issued.

97. For each enquiry where a response was provided, please provide a copy of the response.