

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

Annual Report – Territory Families 2016-17

1. **Please provide details of the 61 young people with a youth diversion case management plan: how many of these have offended/re-offended while on the plan? How many have breached bail while on a plan? How many have entered detention since being on a plan, either on remand or sentenced?**

The information requested is recorded across multiple systems in databases under the control of several Government Agencies. At this time there is no link between these data sets.

As at 30 June 2017, 61 young people had been case managed by Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officers.

Of these 61:

- 13 young people have offended or re-offended;
- six young people have breached bail; and
- 29 young people have entered detention (either on remand or sentenced).

The majority of young people who entered detention already had matters in train before the court, where the referral to the Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Teams was triggered by their court matters.

2. **Please provide details of the 62 young people diverted to a restorative justice conference: how many of these have offended/re-offended since the conference began? How many have breached bail since the conference began? How many have entered detention since the conference began, either on remand or sentenced?**

The young people who are diverted to a restorative justice conference are referred directly by NT Police to non-government organisations. There is no integration between NT Police, Community Corrections and the Courts data systems at this time.

In the justice system, there are three data systems that are operated by the Courts, Police and Correctional Services. There is no linkage of these data sets and there is no segregation of adult and youth custodial files in the correction data set. Territory Families is working with other key Government agencies to improve the availability and connectivity of data sets to provide more meaningful reporting and information.

3. **Please provide details of the 17 young people who completed a restorative justice agreement: how many of these have offended/re-offended since the agreement was completed? How many have breached bail since the agreement was completed? How many have entered detention since the agreement was completed, either on remand or sentenced?**

Of the 17 young people who completed a restorative justice agreement, the following can be reported as at 30 June 2017:

- 7 of the 17 have offended/re-offended;
- 10 of the 17 have breached bail; and
- 3 of the 17 young people have entered detention on remand.

4. **The number of pensioner and carer concession recipients in 2015-16 was 19,546, and in 2016-17 was 19,345, a reduction in recipients by 201. However, the annual report indicates a \$3m one-off budget increase for increased demand in Pensioner and Carer Concessions. Can you please provide the detail of this additional \$3m and explain this budget expenditure in light of the fact that there were fewer recipients?**

The additional budget capacity was to fund one-off payments in 2016-17 as a result of a legacy invoices from a financial reconciliation process dating back to 2014-15.

5. **Has an estimate been made to determine the expected number of people who will be recipients of the new NT Concession Scheme and the Seniors Recognition Scheme? If so, what is the estimate for the respective schemes?**

It has been estimated that there will be approximately 16 000 members of the Seniors Recognition Scheme and approximately 23 200 members on the NT Concession Scheme.

6. **What are the projected savings to the NT Concession Scheme from removing the eligibility of Territorians on the Commonwealth Low Income Health Care Card, Carer Allowance or Commonwealth Seniors Health Card?**

There are no projected savings from removing the eligibility of Territorians on Commonwealth Low Income Health Care Card, Carer Allowance or Commonwealth Seniors Health Card as the Government has committed to grandfathering existing members of the scheme.

7. **The Minister for Children has committed to developing a dual pathways model “where child protection notifications not screened for investigation are referred to an NGO provider for support.” Of the 13,039 notifications that did not proceed to investigation in 2016-17, how many of these were referred to NGOs?**

A key priority for Territory Families is investing earlier in children, including providing earlier support to families. Early intervention, parenting and family support services take many forms depending on the strengths and needs of the family. It is not necessary for families to be referred through the Child Abuse Hotline to receive this support.

The Child Abuse Hotline does not clearly record the referral of families to support services. This is currently being addressed as part of Government's commitment to provide earlier support for families, through the Dual Pathways program.

In 2016-17 the number of children whose families were receiving ongoing casework support rose from 1,515 to 2,007. This casework was conducted by Territory Families Remote Family Support Service and Strengthening Families teams, as well as a number of non-government organisations including those funded by Territory Families including through the Intensive Family and Parenting Support Service.

8. Will government be conducting regular reviews of the non-government providers funded to provide early intervention, parenting and family support services? How often, and what performance indicators will be evaluated?

Yes. Early intervention, parenting and family support services take many forms depending on the strengths and needs of the family and performance measures will be tailored to the type of service provided. Key measures include the number of families and clients receiving services, the hours of support provided, throughput of cases, and the level of improved outcomes achieved for families at case closure.

9. Please provide details of the young people who have been managed by the youth outreach and re-engagement officers: how many have been case-managed? How many of these have offended/re-offended while/since being case-managed? How many have breached bail while/since being case-managed? How many have entered detention while/since being case-managed, either on remand or sentenced?

Refer to response to Question 1.

10. Of the 39 new Youth Outreach Workers who began their roles in May, how many have since separated, either through retirement, resignation or termination?

Of the 39 Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officers who commenced with Territory Families in May 2017, as at 30 June 2017 there was five resignations and two permanent transfers to other NT government agencies.

11. Will government be conducting regular reviews of the non-government providers funded to provide domestic, family and sexual violence services? How often, and what performance indicators will be evaluated?

Yes, under the new Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework the Government will, in partnership with the non-government sector introduce an evidence and needs-based investment approach that will increase the consistency, transparency and accountability of funding to the non-government providers. This is aimed at increasing and better targeting the investment in Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence prevention and response services to improve how Territory Families measure and evaluate the services Territory Families funds, and importantly to improve the social returns for women, children and families.

The frequency and indicators to be used will be developed as part of the outcomes reporting framework that is being established under the first Action Plan.

12. While the number of Aboriginal children in care has continued to increase over several years, the proportion placed with Aboriginal carers was reported as lower in 2016-17 than it has been at least over the past 5 years. How can Government account for this reduction, and what strategies will be employed to ensure that Aboriginal children are placed with Aboriginal carers?

The number of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care and the proportion placed with Aboriginal carers is presented on page 26 of Territory Families' Annual Report.

There has been year on year growth in the number of Aboriginal Foster and Kinship Carers places of care, however this has not kept pace with the growth in the number of Aboriginal children entering out-of-home care. The circumstances around the provision of Kinship Care can be complicated and recruitment and retention of carers more complex than for standard Foster Care.

In 2017, Territory Families committed to supporting the Family Matters campaign led by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care. The Family Matters campaign includes six principles to address the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the child protection system and is guiding the reform of the *Care and Protection of Children Act* and Agency policy.

This year Territory Families has partnered with the Aboriginal Peak Organisation of the Northern Territory to develop an out-of-home care strategy that will reshape existing arrangements with the intent of increasing the number of Aboriginal children cared for by Aboriginal organisations. The strategy will include greater partnerships and involvement of Aboriginal community controlled organisations in the child protection system as recommended by the Royal Commission into Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory particularly with respect to increasing the number of Kinship Carers.

Key strategies being pursued by Territory Families to lift the proportion of Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal Carers include:

- leveraging from the agency's recent regionalisation process to build better connections between urban child protection case workers and remote family support staff who have excellent local knowledge of extended families and have been assisting in identifying potential carers;
- building relationships with local Aboriginal controlled organisations in order to expand the network of people who can help identify and connect with potential Kinship Carers;
- supporting and developing relationships with organisations such as the Mikan group of elders in Nhulunbuy to leverage off local knowledge to find family and recruit Kinship Carers;
- more focussed work with the Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT to recruit new carers into the system; and

- stronger focus on providing early supports to Aboriginal families with children in care, to ensure that they can maintain stable placements and avoid the need for children to come into care.

13. Can you please explain the discrepancy between the foster care and kinship care numbers provided in the graph on page 27 of the Annual Report and those discussed under the heading of *Foster and kinship care* on page 28? Which, if either, are the correct figures, and will the Annual Report be updated to rectify the error?

There is no discrepancy. Chart 2 on page 27 titled 'Children in Care by Placement Category' relates to the number of children in foster and kinship care placements while the data quoted in paragraph one of page 28 covers the number of foster and kinship carer households. There can be more than one child placed in each household. Both number sets are correct.

14. Can you please explain why the number of children in purchased home-based care has increased while those in kinship care has decreased? What strategies will Government employ to reverse this trend?

The number of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care and the proportion placed with Aboriginal carers is presented on page 26 of Territory Families' Annual Report.

In 2017 Territory Families committed to supporting the Family Matters campaign led by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care. The Family Matters campaign includes six principles to address the over-representation of aboriginal children in the child protection system and is guiding the reform of the *Care and Protection of Children Act* and departmental policy. Also in 2017, Territory Families partnered with the Aboriginal Peak Organisation of the Northern Territory to develop an out-of-home care strategy that will reshape existing arrangements with the intent of increasing the number of Aboriginal children cared for by Aboriginal organisations. The strategy will include greater partnerships and involvement of Aboriginal community controlled organisations in the child protection system as recommended by the Royal Commission into Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

Territory Families is reviewing all out-of-home care arrangements on a regular basis, including conducting family finding responses to identify suitable kin for placements.

The restructure of Territory Families in 2016-17 brought together the Remote Family Support Service, Women's Safe House and statutory child protection teams under one line management team, which has already yielded significant opportunity to work together and leverage off the local knowledge of these staff in relation to remote families.

Child protection teams utilise the knowledge of remote staff. This includes working collaboratively to identify previously unknown family connections.

A strategic Goal of the Agency is to Partner to Empower change. Territory Families is working with families, the community, government and non-government organisations to address challenges and strive for a safe and better future. An example of collaborative partnerships includes, the Agency worked with members of the local community to establish the Mikan Reference Group in East Arnhem. The Territory Families Arnhem office works with Mikan to:

- build constructive working relationships between Territory Families and local communities, including outstations and homelands;
- ensure Territory Families' practices and processes are culturally safe;
- share information and promote child protection awareness in the community; and
- Territory Families is designing improved induction and ongoing training for kinship carers to be co-delivered in 2018.

The agency's partnership with Foster and Kinship Carers Association of the NT has been enhanced throughout 2016-17. Territory Families has worked in collaboration with the Foster and Kinship Carers Association of the NT to develop the Foster and Kinship Carer Charter of Rights, which was launched at regional locations through presentations and workshops with carers and staff, along with a video presentation. Foster and Kinship Carer Excellence Awards occurred across regional centres in Quarter One 2017 to recognise the work of carers in the NT, and children in care Christmas parties also occurred in major centres to support families with children in care.

15. As part of its plan to transition out-of-home care to the non-government sector, will Government be conducting regular reviews of the non-government providers funded to provide these services? How often, and what performance indicators will be evaluated?

Yes, as planning for the transition of out-of-home care to the Non-Government sector occurs, Territory Families will continue to review and improve the existing out-of-home care system. The findings of the Royal Commission into Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory will impact this work.

In 2017, Territory Families commenced an approach to assess the quality of individual residential care providers, including site visits to residential care homes. The site visit tool assesses residential care services against legislative requirements and some National Out-of-Home-Care Standards. To date in 2017, 46 residential care homes received both scheduled and unscheduled site visits and assessments.

In 2018, Territory Families is revising the site inspection process to include more rigorous assessment against all standards and to create a standardised measure of the quality of care provided to children. The aim is to provide a robust and consistent Northern Territory wide quality assurance framework for continually improving the quality of care provided to children in out-of-home-care.

Territory Families is holding a workshop early in 2018 with residential out-of-home-care service providers to agree on an interim quality assurance framework including standards and performance measures. This timing allows Territory Families to consider the relevant recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Also in 2018, Territory Families will undertake service provider and site quality assessments of purchased home based care arrangements.

- 16. “In 2016-17, Territory Families explored how other jurisdictions design and operate alternatives to detention.” Can you please provide details of which jurisdictions were explored, which alternative programs were considered, and how the successful approach was determined within the context of the Northern Territory?**

During 2016-17, Territory Families visited Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory and New Zealand to examine design and operations of alternatives to detention. In addition, desk top research was undertaken in relation to a number of other national and international models. Alternative programs which were considered from these jurisdictions included youth diversion, supported bail accommodation, wilderness camps and community-based youth support workers. Territory Families reviewed operating models and best practice principles which applied within the context of the Northern Territory. This will inform the Agency’s work to respond to the findings of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

- 17. Given the high profile of some subjects relating to senior Territorians, why has the Minister’s Advisory Council for Senior Territorians met only once throughout the year? How many meetings are planned for next year?**

As part of the Machinery of Government changes, community membership of the Minister’s Advisory Council was reviewed. Expressions of Interest for community member positions on the Council were advertised during February 2017. There were delays in finalising the membership of the Ministerial Advisory Council for Senior Territorians due to the need to ensure appropriate Aboriginal representation on the Council. The membership of the Council was approved in early May 2017 and the first meeting of the reviewed Council took place on 1 June 2017. A subsequent meeting was held on 15 November 2017. It is expected that the Council will meet at least three times during 2017-18.

- 18. How does Government account for an increase in complaints referred by the Children’s Commissioner from 41 to 60? Please provide the detail of the subject of these complaints, and their resolutions.**

The increase in complaints referred to Territory Families by the Office of the Children's Commissioner is attributable to Office referring more complaint matters to Territory Families to investigate and resolve rather than progress an investigation from within their own office.

An increase in the number of complaints referred to Territory Families also reflects the Machinery of Government changes for Youth Justice to transfer into Territory Families. Youth Justice referrals account for 11 complaint matters in 2016-17.

The subject of these complaints and their resolutions are summarised as follows:

- Seven complaints related to the conditions and management of young people, including the use of isolation and inappropriate use of force in response to young people’s behaviours;
- Two complaints related to the adequacy of consultation undertaken by Territory Families in relation to young persons’ transfer between the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre to Don Dale Youth Detention Centre; and
- Two complaints related to the broken telephone system or lack of access to the telephone system.

At the end of 30 June 2017, two of these eleven complaints remain open to the Office of the Children’s Commissioner

In response to the complaints, Territory Families is implementing new Directives regarding the management and support of young people in detention.

Territory Families made a number of determinations regarding the transfer of young people in detention between Alice Springs and Darwin. It was directed that young people in detention are not to be transferred between facilities without consultation with: the young person in detention, their legal representative, their parent or legal guardian, the Youth Justice Case Workers and the young person’s Care and Protection Case Manager.

Phones damaged in the Detention Centre have been repaired. Installation of a second phone in the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre is being explored to afford detainees more privacy when they need to make telephone calls.

19. Please detail the 32 recommendations provided to Territory Families by the Children’s Commissioner. Which have been accepted, and which have been actioned?

Actions have been undertaken to address all of the 32 Office of the Children’s Commissioner recommendations. 30 recommendations are fully complete, with substantial progress made on the remaining two.

	Recommendation	Status
1.	NT Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health maintain collaboration in reviewing and updating the ‘At Risk’ Procedures Manual and the Youth ‘At-Risk’ Procedures and associated service agreements to ensure operational effectiveness of managing young persons placed ‘at-risk’.	Complete
2.	NT Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health examine alternative options, other than the de-escalation rooms, for young persons placed ‘at-risk’.	Complete

	Recommendation	Status
3.	NT Department of Correctional Services to give written notice to the Office of the Children's Commissioner, as soon as practicable, if a young person 'at-risk' has not been seen by a medical practitioner within 24 hours of being placed 'at-risk'.	Complete
4.	Explore options for continuously monitoring a young person 'at-risk' that complies with the Emergency Management Protocol in the Youth Justice Regulations and is consistent with the Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services At-Risk Procedures Manual and the Department of Health Youth 'At-Risk' Procedures	Complete
5.	Conduct and record regular internal audits of all 'at-risk' clothing and bedding held at both Youth Detention Centres to ensure each item to be issued to a young person placed 'at-risk' is in a sufficient condition (no loose threads) and there are appropriate stocks to cater for all sizes.	Superseded – at risk clothing is not used.
6.	Immediately prohibit the use of the 'Hoffman Tool' to strip clothing from a young person who is refusing to change into 'at-risk' clothing.	Complete
7.	Develop policy and operational procedures to address the appropriate use of the Hoffman Tool to remove ligatures in Emergency Management/critical incidents	In Progress
8.	The use of the Emergency Restraint Chair is strictly prohibited.	Complete
9.	Continue using 'Use of Restraints' Directive 3.2.1 until such point that the Youth Detention Restraint Practice Advisory Group develops evidence-based policy and operational procedures in restraint practices.	Complete
10.	Develop policy and operational procedures to address the appropriate use of a spit hood.	Complete
11.	Conduct a review of the High Security Unit to establish operational capacity to staff the unit 24 hours, 7 days a week.	Complete
12.	Conduct a review of staff planning processes to ensure that all current serving Youth Justice Officers have completed the Certificate III Correctional Practice (Youth Custodial) upon their confirmation of appointment.	Complete
13.	Introduce mandatory training days to include operational safety and tactics training, (such as restraint techniques and scenario training) and updates upon changes to legislation, policy and/or procedures.	Complete
14.	Identify an appropriate provider to incorporate training in complex trauma and its effect on young persons in detention.	Complete
15.	Training to incorporate a more extensive focus on crisis de-escalation / negotiation / mediation training specific to young persons who are threatening self harm, having attempted self-harm and/or have been subsequently placed at risk.	Complete

	Recommendation	Status
16.	Consult with the Correctional Officer Training Department to include in training information on the obligations of Correctional Officers to young persons who are temporarily transferred to an adult correctional facility (with a focus on section 154 of the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>).	Complete
17.	Incorporate into training the appropriate use of, and application of, the Hoffman Tool (to remove ligatures).	Complete
18.	Incorporate into training the appropriate use of, and application of a spit hood.	Complete
19.	NT Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health to develop a service arrangement for trained health practitioners to dispense schedule 4 and 8 medication to young persons.	Complete
20.	Ensure that all cells are compliant with the minimum standards of detention outlined in the UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (i.e. the 'Havana Rules').	Complete
21.	Develop a reporting system to ensure decisions to transfer young persons temporarily to adult facilities are recorded appropriately.	Complete
22.	Utilise the forthcoming Practice Review relating to children who are the subject of multiple child protection notifications as an opportunity to assess the quality of the SDM (Structured Decision Making) Safety and Family Risk Assessment tools in practice and identify any SDM practice themes arising.	Complete
23.	Assess whether TF internal policies regarding the use of interpreters offer sufficient guidance on the engagement of families who do not have English as their first language, and what staff are to do when the services of an interpreter are unavailable.	Complete
24.	Review all closed SCGEN (substitute care general) cases in the Alice Springs office from 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016 where the child entered care on a short term order and the client outcome status at case closure recorded on the Community Care Information System (CCIS) is any value other than 'returned to the family home'.	Complete
25.	Formalise policy to provide that upon an application for a protection order being withdrawn or a protection order ceasing, TF must return the child to his or her parent, or a person having parental responsibility pursuant to section 17 of the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i> .	Complete
26.	It is recommended that the Chief Executive Officer of Territory Families provide detailed progress of the implementation of the Therapeutic Residential Care model that provides a therapeutic residential setting for children and young people in the care of the Chief Executive Officer.	In progress
27.	The Department to review and implement an appropriate workload management system including mechanisms to appropriately manage demand capacity peaks.	Complete

	Recommendation	Status
28.	Conduct a full audit of Community Care Information System to ensure that all information relating to intakes of RT are uploaded and all assessments are completed as per the Structured Decision Making Policy and Procedures Manual.	Complete
29.	Ensure SA Families have been fully briefed on the history of RT and that JT is being provided with on-going support in order to care for her children.	Complete
30.	Undertake a comprehensive audit and review of training of front line workers with regards to providing a broader knowledge of cumulative harm as a consideration in any protective response.	Complete
31.	Commit to a comprehensive audit and review of training of all frontline staff with regards to information recording on Community Care Information System and related processes.	Complete
32.	Review the level of training given to caseworkers on the use of the Structured Decision Making Intake Screening Tool to ensure that intakes are prioritised in a consistent and safe manner and a validation study, intended to test the outcomes of the Structured Decision Making actuarial tool.	Complete

20. How does the Government account for the increase in work health and safety incidents reported from 88 to 111, especially those related to mental factors, which have increased from 10 to 24. What strategies does Government plan to address work health and safety among Territory Families staff?

Data for 2016-17 is based on the combined Machinery of Government Agency numbers whereas 2015-16 is based only on data for the former Department of Children and Families.

The overall increase from 88 to 111 incidents is 20 per cent against 27 per cent increase in the workforce.

Territory Families is committed to valuing and investing in our people and we are committed to operating a safe, supportive, professional, adaptive and dynamic environment.

To enable this goal to be achieved, Territory Families has implemented the following Work Health Safety Initiatives:

- incorporation of Work Health and Safety in induction program for new employees;
- improvements in recording and reporting of Work Health and Safety incidents to Territory Families Executive Leadership Group;
- review of agency Work Health Safety management systems;
- incorporation of Work Health and Safety topics in work unit meetings to normalise safety conversations; and
- emergency planning to prevent and respond to Work Health and Safety emergencies.

Mental health specific initiatives have included:

- change Resilience and Mental Health training for all employees;
- training for Human Resource Professionals for awareness and understanding about anxiety, depression and suicide;
- regular review of staff leave statistics;
- promotion of Employee Assistance Programs;
- promotion of discounted Health Insurance for employees;
- promotion of access to wellbeing information and resources;
- promotion of work life balance through flexible work arrangements and the purchase of additional leave; and
- review of the existing Supervision Framework to enable leaders and managers to provide better support to Agency employees.

Annual Report – Youth Justice Advisory Report

- 1. The Chair of the Committee noted that the functions of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee have been constrained by the resignation of members due to the change in departments overseeing Youth Justice, and by committee member's workloads impacting on their family lives and abilities to attend meetings. Unfortunately, this resulted in a lack of meetings by the advisory committee for over six months in 2017, in contravention to section 211 of the *Youth Justice Act*.**

In light of the upcoming review of the Act, and the recent recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, the advisory committee will be expected to undertake important work in these areas. What measures will Government be putting in place to better support the members of the advisory committee to ensure quorums are met and meetings can be held as appropriate?

Territory Families supports the recruitment and selection of committee members in partnership with the Youth Justice Advisory Committee Chair. Territory Families provides support with recruitment of members, covers travel and meeting costs, and provides secretariat and administration services including coordination of meetings.

There have been some member attendance issues since June 2017, with one member on long term unexpected leave. There have been occasions where Government agency representatives and community members have missed meetings for unexpected reasons. With regards to the member on long term leave, Territory Families has encouraged and supported the Chair to write to the Agency requesting another member be nominated.

- 2. The committee has identified that there is a potential advantage in using electronic monitoring as a less intrusive means to conduct surveillance when compared to other means such as routine police checks [for youths]. At the publication of this report, police had not issued any electronic monitoring devices to youths. Why not? Have any been issued since?**

Police continually assess persons who go through the police bail process for electronic monitoring (EM) suitability. EM cannot not be used in every instance and certain conditions must be met before a Bailee can be considered for EM. The legislative and technical requirements to determine suitability for an EM device place a high threshold on mobile phone signal strength, with landline access being a further consideration. Police must assess this within a compressed review timeframe. By contrast, Court issued EM devices undergo a three day evaluation, including base station installation at a residence.

This is an additional tool for police in the bail space and it is not suitable in all cases. Bail is not and should not be punitive. People are not set up to fail; however, it is hoped that this additional tool will encourage some individuals to comply with their conditions. In all cases of bail determination, an individual's circumstances are assessed on a case by case basis. An individual maintains the right to a bail review.

The Northern Territory Police Force has issued three EM devices to youth (two in Darwin and one in Alice Springs) since the commencement of the 2017-18 financial year and remain committed to identifying suitable candidates to have their bail conditions monitored.

- 3. On their visit to the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre, why weren't the Youth Justice Advisory Committees given a tour of the Visits Centre, the High Security Unit (HSU) and the school?**

The Youth Justice Advisory Committee were granted access to all areas of the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre during their visit on 20 June 2017. However, due to a shortage of time as a result of an agenda overrun, the Committee was not able to include the Visits Centre, the High Security Unit or the Tivendale School as part of their tour.

- 4. On 16 November 2016, members of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee inspected the Loves Creek Outstation, at the time being managed by the BushMob program. Members were impressed by the 'structured program model that involved the skill development of the young people, that not only included work ready skills, but gaining life skills', and described it as 'similar to the sentenced to a job program'. Will Government be implementing any programs for youth which include a work skills or training component? If so, please provide details. If not, why not?**

Territory Families will be continuing to fund non-government organisations to deliver diversionary programs and services that are targeted towards supporting school re-engagement, training or employment, bush trips/camping, arts programs, life skill programs, and sport and recreation. Territory Families provides support for youth in intersecting with the Youth Justice system through the Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Team and through partnering with service providers who deliver programs targeted at youth to increase their work skills, training and job readiness.