

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Housing and Community Development:

Stress, Bullying and Workplace Claims

1. From information you supplied on reportable safety issues from 1 July to 31 March, there were 11 “slips, trips and falls” costing a total of more than \$320,000 in claims and 48 “mental factors” costing a total of about \$24,000 in claims. How much time was lost due to those claims that were accepted?

Lost time due to slips, trips and falls is as follows:

- a claim from 2013-14 settled in October 2018 (settlement \$299 439) – 54 days lost time,
- a claim from January 2018 – 11 days lost time; and
- a claim from January 2018 – four days lost time.

Of the 11 slips, trips and falls identified for this period, only two resulted in claims.

Lost time for mental factors is as follows:

- a claim from April 2017 – 39 days lost time.

2. How many employees remain on leave due to stress?

One employee remains on leave for a stress related injury.

3. How many claims of bullying were lodged by employees of the agency during 2017/18?

The Department of Housing and Community Development has had one reported claim of bullying during this period.

4. What action has been taken as a result of these claims?

The Department of Housing and Community Development has implemented multiple training initiatives:

- Mandatory 'Combat Bullying' training for all employees;
- Personal Resilience and managing stress training;
- Accredited Mental Health First Aid training; and
- Working in the Northern Territory Public Service training.

The Department of Housing and Community Development is now recognised as a Gold Level Mental Health First Aid skilled workplace, with 10 per cent of its employees having successfully undertaken the Mental Health First Aid training.

5. How many claims are outstanding?

The Department of Housing and Community Development has two open claims:

- one for a vehicle accident; and
- one for slips, trips and falls.

6. What has been the total cost of workplace incidents and injuries to the agency this financial year to 31 March 2018?

The total cost of workplace injury claims to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018 is \$377 648.57.