

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

## Question Taken on Notice

**Date:** 11 June 2019  
**Subject:** Prisoner Transport Services Expenditure  
**From:** Mr Gary Higgins  
**To:** Hon Nicole Manison  
**Agency:** Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services

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**Number:** 2-22

**Question:**

How much was spent by police in the past year providing prisoner transport services, including overtime and other expenses such as aeroplane hours. Is it recorded now and can it be recorded in the future?

**Answer:**

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) does not have or utilise an activity based reporting system of police hours. Consequently it is not possible to ascertain how many rostered hours providing prisoner transport services has occurred or detail the associated costs.

The total expenditure for 2018-19 to end March 2019 utilising a few unique regional cost centre codes that record expenditure and overtime reason codes, both related to prisoner escort, is \$0.35M. This is a significant understatement of the total human resource effort as outlined above.

The Northern Territory Police Force Airwing has flown 868 hours related to prisoner transport for the financial year to 11 June 2019 consisting of 449 hours purely for prisoner transport and 419 hours where prisoners were carried whilst other operational tasks were conducted e.g. member transfer, totalling 868 hours. Using an average hourly cost of \$2,500 including all Airwing expenses the estimated costs associated with prisoner flights is \$2.17M.

This does not include costs for charter aircraft for prisoner transfers. Albeit this is a minor component of business.