

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Fyles to the Minister for Correctional Services:

#### **Family Responsibility Program**

1. Has the Family Responsibility Program been scrapped? If not, how is the program being monitored and reported against as outputs have been removed from the 2015/16 budget and annual report?

#### **Answer:**

The Family Responsibility Program (FRP) is currently undergoing a review and remodel with the express aim to realign the program in order to:

- increase obligations on the parents of young people entering the youth justice system;
- improve and enhance reporting mechanisms and the reporting of outcomes; and
- contribute to reducing the number of young people being sentenced to detention.

While the review and remodel are underway, FRP continues to service the existing families engaged with the program.

The review and remodel will examine:

- entry and assessment criteria;
- intervention and coordination;
- monitoring, reporting and evaluation; and
- compliance and statutory obligations.

It is proposed that subsequent to the finalisation of the remodel, the new FRP will be run as an 18 month pilot, focussing on families in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs. The 18 month pilot will provide sufficient opportunity to monitor and evaluate the initial outcomes of the program. The results of the evaluation will:

- assist in ensuring the program meets its aim of holding parents accountable for the actions of their children;
- allow further tailoring of the program to maximise family engagement; and
- provide the foundation for future legislative amendments to further strengthen the program's capacity to increase parental responsibility.