

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Burgoyne to the Minister for Territory Families:

Community Accountability Boards

1. Have Community Accountability Boards been established? How many are there, and where are they located?

ANSWER:

On 24 March 2022, the Northern Territory Government approved the cessation to establish Community Accountability and for the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the Department) to place efforts into the establishment of the Restorative Community Work Service Program.

2. Were public calls for members made? If so, how many respondents were there, and how many were successful?

ANSWER:

The Department exhausted all opportunities to appropriately engage the community through the Community Accountability Boards expression of interest process and further advertising or campaigning was determined unlikely to produce differing results.

This included two separate rounds of public expressions of interest to elicit interest in participating in the Community Accountability Boards. The first round was undertaken between 10-21 August 2021 by:

- advertising through a media campaign that included newspaper advertising; and
- expansive social media campaign, including creation of a dedicated webpage, LinkedIn and Facebook bursts.

Two community members applied from Darwin. No applications were received for Alice Springs or Palmerston.

A second direct and targeted campaign, focusing on establishing a Community Accountability Board in Alice Springs as a trial was undertaken between 2-31 October 2021, by:

- advertising through newspaper (Centralian and the NT News) and 70 radio placements;
- expansive social media campaign, including creation of a dedicated webpage, LinkedIn and Facebook bursts;

- face-to-face meetings by Department senior officers with the following key Alice Springs based stakeholders:
 - Victims of Crime NT;
 - Chamber of Commerce;
 - Alice Springs Town Council;
 - Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet; and
 - Northern Territory Police.
- follow up correspondence communication with above stakeholders;
- engagement with the Tangentyere Council, including distribution of the terms of reference; and
- briefings to over 100 Alice Springs based Department staff for distribution across Central Australia networks and some sharing across individual staff social media accounts.

Two applications from community members were received from Alice Springs prior to the (extended) closing date.

The number of applicants received in both rounds were insufficient to form Community Accountability Boards.

3. Have community accountability boards made any decisions or recommendations? What were they and what action has been taken?

ANSWER:

No Community Accountability Boards were established and therefore, no decisions or recommendations were made.