

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister Housing and Community Development:

Appropriation Bill – Housing and Community Development

Please provide copies of:

- All questions, which you have received from the public in relation to the Estimates process and consideration of the Appropriation Bill for the 2017/18 financial year; and
- the answers to those questions that were presented to the Estimates Committee.

Please provide the information requested below for Agencies and Government authorities for which have responsibility, as at 31 March 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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Please accept apologies if questions are not under the correct Output. Where this is the case, it would be appreciated if you could indicate the appropriate Output in your response. Thank You.

OUTPUT GROUP: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT: HOUSING SERVICES DELIVERY

Given the many changes under the Machinery of Government arrangements, and the significant funding variations from the time Budget Paper 2016/17 was formulated, please outline what the changes were.

1. This output area has increased funding from the machinery of government changes. What sections have been added to this output?
2. According to the government's remote housing commitment, an extra \$110 million will be spent this year, as part of the \$1.1 billion figure. Please identify where these extra amounts are within the budget papers and output areas.
3. Why was the number \$1.1 billion chosen? What is the basis of the calculation?

4. Was the amount of money decided and then allocated or were the Territory's needs determined and money allocated to meet those needs?
5. How many houses will be built for the \$1.1 billion? Where will those jobs be?
6. How many jobs will be created for the \$1.1 billion?
7. How many people are homeless in the Northern Territory? How will this be measured?
8. Is there an overarching strategy to deal with homelessness in the Northern Territory?
9. How many new public housing dwellings are planned to be built in Darwin?
10. Where will these new dwellings be located? Please provide addresses.
11. How many people are currently on the waiting list for public housing?
12. What is the average wait on the priority wait list for public housing?
13. Has the way the wait list is devised been changed recently? If so, how and when?
14. Why? How much have the numbers dropped under the new method of calculation?
15. What is the current status of John Stokes square?
16. What is the plan moving forward with John Stokes square?
17. What is the current status of the Shiers St complex in the Narrows?
18. Can antisocial behaviour in public housing affect the quality of life in some public housing?
19. Please advise the plan to deal with antisocial behaviour?
20. What happens if a tenant engages in antisocial behaviour? Are they kicked out?
21. When were these initiatives created?
22. Do tenants have an obligation to take care of their houses and keep them clean?

23. Are tenants clearly informed of their obligations in this regard?
24. How are these responsibilities monitored?
25. What happens if tenants do not fulfil these obligations?
26. Government is establishing a Masterplan for using Territory Housing properties as emergency women's shelters. What is the timeline for this Masterplan? What does it involve? What is the geographic scope? How will it work?
27. The agency profile states greater control and asset management will be transferred to non-government organisations. Which organisations has ownership been transferred to? Which properties were transferred? What was the value of each of the properties?
28. Government will be providing client-centric housing and tenancy support. Please elaborate on what this actually means in practice? Please give examples of changes in the last 12 months which have been client-centric?
29. The budget papers state there is \$5 million in additional funding as part of the \$32.6 million for repairs and maintenance in the 2017/18 budget. Please point out where the \$5 million is in the budget papers?
30. The agency profile mentions there is \$17 million for minor new works to upgrade public housing and government employee housing. Please break that down into public housing and employee housing. Which public housing dwellings will be upgraded? Please provide a list including the value for each upgrade? Which government employee housing will be upgraded? Please provide a list including the value for each upgrade.
31. The agency profile mentions \$14.2 million to support the headlease rental initiative of the Real Housing for Growth plan. How many household leases are currently in this program? What is the average lease cost per week for each household?
32. How does the Real Housing for Growth headlease rental initiative work with regard to social housing? How many leases are in this part of the plan?
33. The budget papers mention \$10 million in incentive funding to expand the community housing sector. Please break down this figure and explain what it does? Please provide a list of recipients?
34. Please breakdown the \$75.1 million figure for Indigenous Essential Services? Please provide a list broken down by community.

35. What is the average cost to provide electricity to these communities in dollars per kilowatt-hour? Is there substantial variation in the cost of providing power to each community? Please provide a breakdown by cost? Are there any cheaper ways of providing electricity?
36. Regarding the \$22.3 million for outstations, please break that down by outstation or by region? How is the service level determined for each outstation?
37. Please explain the large drop in grant funding for Indigenous essential services from \$37,264,000 in financial year 2016/17 to \$22,918,000 in financial year 2017/18? Why is capital expenditure on indigenous essential services being cut?
38. \$20 million has been allocated for the government employee housing program. What is the breakdown of spending in that \$20 million for financial year 2017/18?
39. How many government employees will be housed under this program?
40. In which communities will government employees be given housing under this new initiative?
41. What are the criteria to apply for this government employee housing?
42. How many people are estimated as being eligible for this remote government employee housing based on these criteria?
43. What proportion of these people is expected to be housed in the free government employee housing by the end of the 17/18 financial year?
44. How many employees have been housed to date under this program?
45. How many Public Housing Safety Officers are there? Please break down that figure by region.
46. How many times have Public Housing Safety Officers been called out?
47. How does that compare to figures for the previous year?
48. How many public housing safety vehicles are there as of March 2017? How does that compare with 30 June 2016?
49. How many patrols have Public Housing Safety Officers done up to 31 March 2017? Please break down this number between week days and week-ends, and between working hours and evenings? What were the corresponding numbers for the 2015/16 financial year?
50. How much is allocated to tenancy support programs? Please break down this figure by region or area.

51. What is the current status of the complex on Victoria Drive, Gray? What is the plan going forward with this site?
52. How many tenants have been evicted under the Red Card policy since it was introduced?
53. How many demerit points have been handed out under the Red Card policy since it was introduced? Please break these down into minor, moderate and serious incidents.
54. The key performance indicators in the budget papers state that the "annual increase in the number of incidents where public housing safety officers assisted with removal of non-residents from public housing premises" is 2%. How many actual incidents were there to 31 March 2017?
55. Why is there a 14% drop (from 90 to 77) in the number of new public housing head lease dwellings from the 2017/18 financial year compared to the financial year 2016/17?
56. The budget papers state they expect 100 buildings to receive additional bedrooms or living spaces in the 2017/18 financial year. Is that figure accurate? Please break this down by community or by region.

Delivery of Housing in Remote Areas

1. Please outline how scoping for house refurbishments are carried out in the Department of Housing and Community Development. Please detail each program in operation at this present time and the scoping process attached to each one?
2. Are there different processes for scoping under different programs in the Department of Housing and Community Development?
3. Have the scoping processes for new builds and refurbishments changed under this Government?
4. What process and/or safeguards are in place to oversight the accuracy and thoroughness of scoping studies?
5. What is the advantage of having private contractors undertake scoping as opposed to the Department of Housing and Community Development prior to awarding of contracts for new builds and refurbishments?

6. What is the average cost of home refurbishment works in Wadeye for the period 1 September 2016 to 1 May 2017?
7. How does this compare to the same period from the previous year?
8. What are the main factors behind these costs?
9. What measures have been taken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of program delivery in remote communities?
10. Will any changes be made to the operational delivery of the remote housing program including new builds and refurbishments works?

HOUSING PROGRAM DELIVERY OFFICE

1. How much land is available in Nauiyu for houses?
2. How many new buildings will you build in communities in financial year 2017/18? In which communities will these houses be built?
3. How were those communities chosen?
4. How does a place based approach compare to a needs-based approach?
5. For the Room to Breathe program, how were the first communities chosen?
6. On 4 April 2017 in a media release you announced \$4 million in tenders for the Room to Breathe program in Gapuwiyak, Hermannsburg, Maningrida, Milikapiti, Ramingining and Wadeye. How were the communities chosen?
7. How were the needs of each of these communities assessed?
8. Were these communities suffering from greater rates of overcrowding than other communities?
9. Were all the tenders awarded? How many extra rooms were built from this \$4 million dollars? Please provide a list of how many new rooms were created in each of these communities.
10. How many jobs were created for locals from these \$4 million in contracts?

11. How many apprenticeships were created for locals from these \$4 million in contracts?
12. Three weeks after the initial announcement, it was announced that 4 of these contracts had already been awarded. For how long were these tenders open? Were these open tenders? How many applicants were there for each of these first four tenders, for Hermansburg, Maningrida, Milikapiti, Ramingining?
13. Was the Assistant Minister for Remote Housing Delivery involved in the awarding of any of these contracts?
14. Was the Assistant Minister for Remote Housing Delivery involved in the design of these programs to go out for select tender?
15. Have the remaining \$7.3 million in tenders of the \$10 million in Room to Breathe funding brought forward to 2017/18 been awarded? Who were these contracts awarded to?
16. Have these programs been discussed with the Assistant Minister for Remote Housing Delivery?
17. How were the funds allocated for each community?
18. In financial year 2017-18 how many additional rooms will be built with this program?
19. How is the work audited?
20. How many additional jobs will be created in financial year 2017-18 from the Room to Breathe program? Where will these jobs be created? Will any new apprenticeships be created under this program?
21. How sustainable is this program when there is no new water and sewerage infrastructure?
22. Is the problem being exacerbated by putting more people into these houses, or encouraging more people into these houses, without providing additional bathroom and toilet facilities?
23. Are there any plans to provide additional toilets or bathrooms in this program?

24. The agency profile states that government is “Delivering employment and economic development outcomes for Aboriginal people and Aboriginal businesses across the Territory through property and tenancy management contracts and delivery of the Remote Housing Program.”

Please explain what the employment outcomes were for the Department up to March 2017. How many jobs were created? How many apprenticeships were created?

25. What were the economic development outcomes up to March 2017?

26. The agency profile mentions “Optimising local employment through the delivery of additional repairs and maintenance and tenancy support programs in remote communities”. How many new jobs have been created in remote communities?

27. How many new apprentices have been employed in remote communities? Please advise on how many per community.

28. The budget paper mentions “enhancements and upgrades to infrastructure in homelands and outstations”. Please provide a list on which homelands or outstations these upgrades were made, what they were and the cost of each?

29. The budget paper mentions “exploring options for a co-funding approach to providing new housing to some outstations and homelands”. Please provide an update on this? Has new funding been attracted and where will this new funding come from?

30. The budget paper also mentions: “Informing the development of options for future aged care facilities through inclusive and collaborative engagements with stakeholders across the aged care sector, community members and other informed groups.” Where is this happening? How does this work? Please give a recent example?

31. How is the Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy (RECS) going? How much funding is allocated to following the RECS?

32. How much money is expected to be received from the Commonwealth for remote housing in financial year 17-18? Which programs do they come from?

33. Is there a likelihood that the Territory may be able to get more funding from the Commonwealth in this space? What is the basis of this?

34. The budget papers also mention “\$81.9 million to continue providing property and tenancy management for remote Aboriginal public housing, including \$64.7 million under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Housing. “ Please break down that \$81.9 million by contract? How many houses are covered by that figure? Please provide the list.

OUTPUT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

1. What was the timeline for the commissioning of an audit into the awarding for towncamp services to Zodiac in December 2015.
2. Did the Assistant Minister for Remote Housing Delivery raise this issue or play any role in calling this audit?
3. Have any of the original assessment panel, or the second assessment panel been involved in any other procurement in this portfolio? How many tenders have the assessment panel (both the first and the second) members been involved in?
4. Will those other tenders also be reviewed?
5. Why was the awarding of the succeeding contract, announced 24 May 2017, referred to the Auditor-General?
6. Will other town camp tenancy management services contracts be referred to the Auditor-General? Why just this contract? What is different about the Alice Springs Town Camp tenancy management contracts?
7. Please advise the status of the town camp review? Attachment A to the answers to the Agency Administration written questions says the total cost is \$1,437,478, however media reports say it is substantially more?
8. Is the report complete? Is the report public? Please provide a copy of the \$1.4 million report.
9. The budget papers state government is “Expanding the Homelands Extra Allowance program to assist with repairs and improvements to homes, including airconditioning, for Aboriginal people permanently living on homelands, and establishing options to improve the transparency and accountability of the program”. Please explain how the program is being expanded.
10. How is the program being made more transparent?
11. How is the program being made more accountable?

12. How many interpreters are currently employed by the interpreter service? How many full-time equivalents?
13. Please break those numbers down by language?
14. Where are these interpreters located?
15. How many new interpreters will be employed as part of the Remote Housing Investment Package for \$1 million? Is that new money, or part of the \$50 million?
16. What are the major expenses in the \$90 million in this output area?
17. Please explain the homelands policy. What is the government's vision for homelands? For example in Wadeye, there are 22 clan groups. What is the homelands policy in relation to the 22 clan groups of Wadeye?

OUTPUT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Why is there no longer a standalone Executive Director for the Local Government portfolio in Government?
2. Whilst there is a 'Minister for Local Government', this title does not appear anywhere in the Administrative Arrangements Order. Why is this so?
3. Has there been any money expended from the Government's new \$5 million Strategic Infrastructure Fund?
4. Compared with the stated purpose of the Special Purpose Grants, they are almost the same. What is the difference?
5. In the response to Written Question No. 60 of the 13th Legislative Assembly, Chanston James Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira, is listed as a current appointee to Local Government Disciplinary Committee under section 80 of the *Local Government Act*. Is the Member for Namatjira still an appointed member of that committee?
6. Has the Member for Namatjira served on a Local Government Disciplinary Committee hearing panel since 1 September 2016?
7. If the Member for Namatjira is no longer an appointed member of the Local Government Disciplinary Committee, on what date did he resign that appointment and will you please provide an original copy of his written resignation to the Minister as required under the *Local Government Act*?

8. Will the Government conduct an investigation into the City of Palmerston's processes and policies in order to ensure that public monies are being spent in a responsible manner—with specific regard to the \$13.5 million multi story car park?

OUTPUT GROUP: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

OUTPUT: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

Staffing

1. How many Full Time Equivalents are currently employed within this Agency, broken down by Output and Business Unit?
2. How many Full Time Equivalents have resigned, retired, taken a redundancy package or have been made redundant, or terminated? Please break down these numbers by Output and Business Unit?
3. What has happened to these positions? Has the work been reallocated to existing staff?
4. Are there any plans to fill these positions in the near future?
5. How many restructures have occurred since 1 September 2016?
6. \$1,132 was spent on advertising on Facebook for the "Social Head Leasing advertising" and \$1,132 to advertise the \$5 million of extra spending on urban housing. Why \$1,132 each time? How is that amount calculated?
7. The department spent \$79,058 with Deloitte Consulting on the Remote Housing Investment Package – Program Delivery Planning. Is this report publically available? Please provide a copy of this report.
8. The department spent \$32,293 with Engagement Plus, of Brisbane with a select tender on the "delivery of remote engagement and coordination workshops". Why was this company chosen as NT companies offer similar services?
9. The department spent \$131,140 with Quality People Pty Ltd for the "development of training documents for Tenancy Management System". How many documents were created? Please provide a copy of these documents.

10. The department spent \$55,875 with SRA Information Technology Pty Ltd for the “mapping of the business process used to document the training material for the Tenancy Management System”. Did this overlap with the Quality People contract above? Please explain the high cost of each contract.
