

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Education:

#### Education in Detention Centres

1. How many school classes have occurred in detention centres between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018?
2. How many times has the student teacher ratio exceeded 1:5 between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018?
3. How many literacy programs in language have been delivered to detainees between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018?
4. How many staff workers providing Education services in youth detention are qualified in special education?

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#### ANSWER:

1. There are four classes per school day at Owen Springs Education Centre, in Alice Springs, and three classes per day at Tivendale School in Darwin.

Between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018, the Owen Springs Education Centre was open for 472 classes, of which 449 were attended by students. Tivendale School was open for a total of 1290 classes, of which 1075 were attended by students.

2. Between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018, the student teacher ratio exceeded 1:5 at the Owen Springs Education Centre Springs on four separate days. On these occasions, classes were split and students attended either a morning or afternoon class.

Data for the student teacher ratio at Tivendale School for the period 1 July 2017 and 31 December 2017, was not collected; however, for the period 1 January 2018 and 31 March 2018, the teacher student ratio of 1:5 was not exceeded.

3. No literacy programs in language were delivered at either schools in for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Tivendale School commenced a Language and Cultures program effective Term 2, 2018, and Owen Springs Education Centre is due to commence Language and Cultures programs in September 2018.

4. The Owen Springs Education Centre does not currently have staff specifically employed with special education qualifications. A School Improvement team member is responsible for coordinating student support and developing staff capacity at the centre. This officer has a Masters in Special Education.

Tivendale School currently employs a Special Education Teacher on a casual basis. The special education teacher assists staff in developing programs and educational adjustment plans to support students.

The Department of Education offers support to both Owen Springs Education Centre and Tivendale School with the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data reporting requirements; and Education Advisors provide support and advice regarding strategies to assist students with specific learning needs.