

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Minister for Business and Innovation

Biz Secure

- 1. Biz Secure to date has paid out \$532 652 (from answers to global questions), from a \$5m fund. What percentage of the amount paid out so far has been for consultants and how much for hardware?**

A total of:

- \$335 000 (63%) has been paid out to consultants (mandatory security audits), and
- \$197 652 (37%) has been paid out for security improvement works (hardware).

- 2. Budget Paper 3 p 61 states that the government intends to spend \$1.9 million in innovation initiatives. In response to global questions from my office, to the end of March 2018 the government's BISI innovation program had paid out \$68,984 and had only 13 successful applicants. Why have grants to support innovation been so poorly subscribed?**

The Business Innovation Support Initiatives (BISI) program is one component of the \$1.9 million, as per Budget Paper 3 - page 61, along with a range of other programs the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation (DTBI) provides to assist businesses to innovate, including:

- a) Innovator in Residence program
- b) Mastering Innovation NT program
- c) support for the innovation ecosystem (e.g. through the Darwin Innovation Hub), and
- d) support for industry leaders and peak bodies to drive innovation across their industry sectors.

The NT Government increased funding for the BISI program to \$1 million in 2017-18, and the program has been fully subscribed, with 31 business assisted during 2017-18, and the NT Government committing around \$1.1 million of additional funding to help these businesses innovate.

Disbursement of funds does not always align with the financial year, given that it is effected according to the schedule of work an applicant is following to develop their innovation.

The Key Performance Indicator set for the Innovation program in Budget Paper 3 for 2017-18 was to support 100 businesses. The number of businesses actually supported during that period was 105.

3. What action will the Government take to improve performance?

Evaluation of all programs is a core business activity for DTBI, is integrated within existing processes and includes the systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics and outcomes of programs to improve effectiveness and inform decisions about future program development.

4. Given the levels of crime in the Territory, what is the Department of Trade, Business, Innovation doing to incentivise and support sporting clubs across the Territory to take out or keep insurance?

The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation supports Northern Territory businesses, including not-for-profits, to start, run and grow.

Via a team of Small Business Champions, the Department provides access to training, planning, workshops and possible funding to address specific small business governance and management issues.

Following an internal review of the Biz Secure program, not-for-profit organisations, including sporting clubs, are now eligible to apply for a grant to improve the security of their premises against break-ins.