

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

Custodial Services

1. Is it correct that a number of probation and parole positions were put through the Job Evaluation System (JES) process and upgraded?
2. Is it correct that the occupants of the positions were automatically advanced to the higher level without the positions being advertised?

If placed in the positions temporarily, how long have these staff been in the positions?

Have the positions been advertised? If not, why not?

3. What is the status of the implementation of the recommendations made in The Hamburger Report, commissioned in November 2015 by the former Minister for Correctional Services, John Elferink?
4. Which of the recommendations concerning adult corrections in the Hamburger Report have been implemented, which have not and what is the time table for implementing any recommendations that have not been implemented to date?
5. How much does it cost, per day to incarcerate an offender or detainee at the Darwin Correctional Centre and Alice Springs Correctional Centre?
6. How much does it cost to support an offender on a community order, home detention or in the Sentenced to a Job program?
7. What changes have been made to the prison industries program in the past fiscal year?
8. What changes have been made to Sentenced to a Job in the past fiscal year, how many offenders are currently participating in Sentenced to a Job, where are they employed and what skills training is currently available to them?
9. How much was spent in 2017-18 on repairs, maintenance and remediation of problems at the Darwin Correctional Centre, including inadequate sewage treatment, security system malfunctions and security deficiencies? How much is budgeted for 2018-19?

10. How much revenue was realised from correctional industries in fiscal year 2017-18?
 11. How much was spent on the prison industries program in 2017-18 and how much is budgeted for 2018-19?
 12. Which prison industries programs were discontinued in 2017-18 and what, if any, have been added?
 13. How many prisoners were gainfully employed in 2017-18 and how does that compare to 2016-17?
 14. How much will be spent per prisoner on VET training, work experience training in 2018-19?
 15. How much was spent on the prison industries program in 2017-18 and how much is budgeted for 2018-19?
 16. Which prison industries programs were discontinued in 2017-18?
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ANSWERS

1. To address the increased complexity in workload since 2011, Community Corrections sought approval from the CEO of the Department of the Attorney General and Justice to review statutory front line positions. The scope of front line roles has broadened in recent years and the complexity of the work, combined with stakeholder expectations, are not commensurate with the current classification of the positions. An independent Job Evaluation System (JES) Panel was convened and the outcomes are outlined in Table 1.
2. Employees have been undertaking the statutory duties of the new levels and have been temporarily promoted through higher duties pending the resolution of ongoing funding availability. The period of higher duties has been extended until 31 December 2018 to enable this process to be finalised.

The department sought and received approval from the Commissioner for Public Employment for temporary promotion without the need to advertise, pursuant to section 30 (1)(b) of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* based on the historical performance in the roles.
3. From the Hamburger Review there have been 21 recommendations completed, 42 recommendations have been substantially completed and are ongoing, 33 recommendations are in progress, six are not proceeding and 40 recommendations have not commenced.

Many of those that have not yet commenced and those that are ongoing will be addressed as part of the wider corrections reform.

4. The status of recommendations are as follows:

Recommendations completed: 1, 4 - 6, 8 – 12, 19, 39, 44 – 48, 75, 93, 131, 138, 166.

Recommendation ongoing: 30 – 38, 40 -43, 50 -53, 55 -57, 62, 64 – 66, 69 – 70, 72 – 74, 77 – 78, 81, 84 – 88, 90 – 92, 107 – 108.

Recommendations in progress: 2, 7, 15 – 16, 18, 20, 23, 67 – 68, 71, 89, 103, 150 – 106, 109 – 111, 115 – 122, 124 – 125, 127 – 129, 136.

Recommendations not yet commenced: 13, 14, 21 - 22, 25, 49, 54, 58 - 61, 63, 76, 79, 80, 82 - 83, 94 - 102, 104, 112 – 114, 126, 130, 132 – 133, 137, 139, 167, 169 – 172.

Recommendations not proceeding/redundant: 3, 17, 24, 26 – 29, 168.

5. It costs \$320.23 per day as per the Australian Government Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2018: Corrective Services.
6. The cost to support an offender on the Sentenced to a Job Program is included in the \$320.23 figure above, as reported by the Australian Government Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2018 (ROGS). The Sentenced to a Job program is able to reduce the cost per prisoner per day by the amount of \$37.50, which is payable to the organisation for board and lodgings.

Costs in relation to home detention and community order vary greatly according to the conditions placed upon them, the type of supervision required and location.

7. Nil.
8. Nil changes to Sentenced to a Job.

As at 28 August 2018, 120 prisoners are engaged in paid or volunteer work. Prisoner employment numbers have plateaued over the past year for a range of reasons, including a retraction in the markets that have affected employer's ability to sustain prisoner employment.

There are a range of employers including, but is not limited to, grounds maintenance, Darwin and Alice Springs City Councils, Agriculture, Civil Works, and shop front services. Employers provide relevant on the job and training as in any workplace.

9. A total of \$5 798 382 was spent on repairs, maintenance and remediation at the Darwin Correctional Centre in 2017-18. Darwin Correctional Centre has a Minor New Works budget of \$1.281 million for 2018-19.

Repairs, maintenance and remediation problems at the Darwin Correctional Precinct are the responsibility of the Project Company and its Facility Manager.

10. Correctional Industries realised \$2 766 000 in revenue at the Darwin Correctional Centre and \$1 769 000 at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre.
11. A total of \$18 500 846 was spent on the industries program in 2017-18.

The 2018-19 budget for the prison industries program is \$14 223 000.
12. There were no additions or reductions of industry programs during this period.
13. In 2017-18, 730 prisoners were gainfully employed (paid and voluntary employment) and 739 in 2016-17.
14. Delivery of vocational education and training programs are provided by the Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education under a Service Level Agreement. An accurate breakdown of costs per prisoner, cannot be provided until the end of the 2018/19 financial year, when an accurate number of participating prisoners is available.
15. As per question 11.
16. As per question 12.