

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Services:

Domestic Violence Reporting and Prevention

- 1. Under section 124A of the *Domestic and Family Violence Act* it is an offense for an adult to fail to make a report to police where that person believes on reasonable grounds that violence is occurring in a domestic relationship. How many calls to police have there been in the last two (2) calendar years, delineated by month?**

It is difficult for Police call takers to determine whether a call via the Joint Emergency Services Centre (JESCC) relates to a mandatory report under section 124A. The report type is recorded by the JESCC call taker as per the information provided (e.g. general disturbance, assault or assault-domestic). But the exact incident type cannot be confirmed until after police attend. On attendance, Police speak to the parties and determine the exact circumstances of the incident. Consequently, providing details of the nature of incident based on the initial call would be inaccurate as the category of incident can be changed once Police attend. The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice record all details of confirmed domestic-violence related offences. See answer to Question 4.

- 2. What is the procedure for police to respond to reports of domestic violence and is each report accompanied by a police visit?**

Domestic violence incidents reported to the JESCC are automatically categorised as a Code 1 response. All Code 1 events are required to be dispatched/attempted to be dispatched within 10 minutes.

Depending on the circumstances and information contained in the original report provided to the JESCC, the supervisor has the option to downgrade the response to a Code 2 or 3 category. An example might be if the person is calling to report a historical event and there is no current danger; or if the reported incident is considered a domestic under policy but there is no possibility of immediate danger due to the parties being separated by distance (i.e. interstate or another location within the Northern Territory).

There are different priorities for Code 2 and 3 events as well, which also changes the recommended minimum response times.

All domestic categorised incidents are dispatched to the members on the road. If further information obtained by the police upon attendance suggest that the

initial dispatched code of 'domestic disturbance' is not an accurate reflection of the incident, the confirmed incident type is recorded as something different.

3. Is a police report completed for each instance in which an alleged report of domestic violence is made under section 124A of the *Domestic and Family Violence Act*?

Refer to response in Question 1.

The NTPF will actively intervene to prevent and respond to all incidents of violent crime and take appropriate steps to protect victims from further harm. Domestic and family violence is unacceptable behavior that has negative and long-lasting consequences for victims, children and other exposed to it. This on-flows into harmful consequences for communities, workplaces and the economy. For each report received, police respond to and rigorously investigate so our best efforts are for the protection of victims and families.

4. How many investigations into alleged incidents of domestic violence have there been in the last two (2) calendar years, delineated by month?

Presented below are not investigations but the number of apprehensions. An apprehension can comprise of multiple offences. These are unique apprehension counts involving domestic violence.

Year/Month	Apprehensions	Arrests	% Arrests	Summons	% Summons
2016	3975	3375	84.9%	600	15.1%
Jan	340	278	81.8%	62	18.2%
Feb	343	277	80.8%	66	19.2%
Mar	340	290	85.3%	50	14.7%
Apr	328	275	83.8%	53	16.2%
May	286	242	84.6%	44	15.4%
Jun	338	292	86.4%	46	13.6%
Jul	312	268	85.9%	44	14.1%
Aug	339	287	84.7%	52	15.3%
Sep	340	294	86.5%	46	13.5%
Oct	316	271	85.8%	45	14.2%
Nov	338	297	87.9%	41	12.1%
Dec	355	304	85.6%	51	14.4%
2017	4152	3548	85.5%	604	14.5%
Jan	353	310	87.8%	43	12.2%
Feb	319	279	87.5%	40	12.5%
Mar	341	291	85.3%	50	14.7%
Apr	293	246	84.0%	47	16.0%
May	324	258	79.6%	66	20.4%
Jun	320	279	87.2%	41	12.8%
Jul	340	292	85.9%	48	14.1%
Aug	340	295	86.8%	45	13.2%
Sep	341	292	85.6%	49	14.4%
Oct	368	307	83.4%	61	16.6%
Nov	388	339	87.4%	49	12.6%
Dec	425	360	84.7%	65	15.3%

Year/Month	Apprehensions	Arrests	% Arrests	Summons	% Summons
2018	3525	2955	83.8%	570	16.2%
Jan	364	313	86.0%	51	14.0%
Feb	398	347	87.2%	51	12.8%
Mar	395	324	82.0%	71	18.0%
Apr	350	289	82.6%	61	17.4%
May	348	298	85.6%	50	14.4%
Jun	334	278	83.2%	56	16.8%
Jul	302	249	82.5%	53	17.5%
Aug	334	272	81.4%	62	18.6%
Sep	349	298	85.4%	51	14.6%
Oct	351	287	81.8%	64	18.2%
Grand Total	11652	9878	84.8%	1774	15.2%

Source: IJIS, extracted 31 December 2018. Data might be different if extracted on a different date.

5. Of the investigations initiated in Question 4 above, how many of those investigations have resulted in referral for prosecution?

AGD could have that number. Presented below is number of apprehensions and how they proceeded.

Year/Month	Apprehensions	Proceeding	Not Proceeding	Deleted	Not enough info
2016	3975	3856	2	1	116
Jan	340	330	0	0	10
Feb	343	331	0	0	12
Mar	340	329	1	0	10
Apr	328	321	0	0	7
May	286	280	0	0	6
Jun	338	327	1	0	10
Jul	312	298	0	0	14
Aug	339	329	0	0	10
Sep	340	334	0	0	6
Oct	316	301	0	0	15
Nov	338	327	0	1	10
Dec	355	349	0	0	6
2017	4152	4024	9	0	119
Jan	353	345	0	0	8
Feb	319	306	1	0	12
Mar	341	333	1	0	7
Apr	293	286	1	0	6
May	324	315	0	0	9
Jun	320	317	0	0	3
Jul	340	326	0	0	14
Aug	340	329	3	0	8
Sep	341	326	1	0	14
Oct	368	351	0	0	17
Nov	388	376	2	0	10
Dec	425	414	0	0	11

Year/Month	Apprehensions	Proceeding	Not Proceeding	Deleted	Not enough info
2018	3525	3409	3	1	112
Jan	364	357	0	0	7
Feb	398	383	0	0	15
Mar	395	387	0	0	8
Apr	350	339	0	0	11
May	348	334	2	0	12
Jun	334	324	0	0	10
Jul	302	290	0	1	11
Aug	334	323	0	0	11
Sep	349	337	1	0	11
Oct	351	335	0	0	16
Grand Total	11652	11289	14	2	347

Source: IJIS, extracted 31 December 2018. Data might be different if extracted on a different date.

6. What is a 'welfare check', which department of government conducts a 'welfare check' and are 'welfare checks' accompanied by a police report?

A NTPF welfare check is a category covering a range of incidents but would never be used for a domestic. A welfare check carries a priority 3 response.

There are two categories of welfare checks being 'welfare check' and 'child welfare'. The definition is any situation where the welfare of a child or person/s may be in doubt. The NTPF are unable to comment if any other Government agencies' terminology in relation to welfare checks.

7. What is the criteria for the reporting of a 'domestic violence related assault' for the purposes of compiling offense statistics? Would this number include 'welfare checks' where an assault was alleged?

The NTPF record offences in the Police Real-time Online Management Information System (PROMIS) on a prima facie basis. In every case, an officer who attended must answer a mandatory question of whether domestic or family violence was a factor in the incident. Where the relationship between parties is of a family or intimate personal relationship (including ex-partners), or if there is an additional breach domestic violence order offence, these are also considered to be domestic or family violence related.

The indicators apply to all incident types, including welfare checks, and are used to compile the 'domestic violence related assault' counts where a prima facie assault offence has occurred.

As previously advised, the initial report to police (i.e. PROMIS - original incident type) may be recorded with a different outcome after police involvement (i.e. PROMIS – confirmed incident type) and once further information is obtained.