

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to Minister for Children and Families.

#### Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body

1. What is the annual budget for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body for the 2011/2012 financial year.

\$500,000.

2. What are the salary packages offered to the following staff of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body:
  - (a) The Chief Executive Officer;
  - (b) The Policy and Research Manager;
  - (c) The Partnerships and Strategy Manager; and
  - (d) The Executive Assistant.

This question is appropriately directed to the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory, the body which is funded by the Northern Territory Government to auspice the establishment of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth and Families Peak Body.

3. Describe how the concept of the Aboriginal Child Care Peak Body has now become the Aboriginal Child, Youth and Families Peak Body with an apparent wider brief.

The brief of the peak body has not been broadened. The use of the word 'youth' in the title of the peak organisation highlights the specific strategies and needs of young people who are in care and transitioning out of care, needs and strategies that are very different from the younger cohort.

4. What is the definition of "youth" being used by the Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body.

Youth in this context relates to youth who are in care or transitioning out of care, accessing support services by the Department or services funded by the Department of Children and Families.

5. What is the rationale for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body including youth as a part of their brief.

The use of the word 'youth' in the title of the peak organisation highlights the specific strategies and needs of young people who are in care and transitioning out of care, needs and strategies that are very different from the younger cohort.

6. The concept of an Aboriginal Peak Body for Aboriginal children came from the Growing Them Strong, Together Report (Recommendation number 3.4.2). This recommendation does not encompass youth. Why has the Minister decided to include youth in the Northern Territory Model.

The use of the word 'youth' in the title of the peak organisation highlights the specific strategies and needs of young people who are in care and transitioning out of care, needs and strategies that are very different from the younger cohort.

7. How will extending the brief of this Peak Body to youth be managed by the Department of Children & Families.

The inclusion of youth in the role of the Peak Body is consistent with the role of the Department of Children and Families.

8. The Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body has been modelled off the Victoria Aboriginal Child Care Agency. Do they include "youth" in their brief.

The Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth and Families Peak Body is not modelled on the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency.

The website of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency ([www.vacca.org.au](http://www.vacca.org.au)) clearly shows that the agency includes young people within its programs and service delivery.

9. How will the Department of Children & Families and the Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body work together.

Both parties see themselves as in partnership with each other, linking government with non-government Aboriginal organisations and individuals.

The Peak Body is represented on a number of bodies established as part of the reform process. In turn, the Department has provided assistance and advice when required during the establishment phase of the Aboriginal Peak body. It is anticipated this will continue.

10. What will the Northern Territory Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Peak Body do.

Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Board of Inquiry, the role of the Aboriginal Child, Youth and Families Peak Body will be:

- Policy development at the state and agency level, workforce development, state level representation, locally informed policy advice, advocacy to state and federal governments; and
- to develop, represent and build capacity of NT Aboriginal Community Controlled Child and family welfare agencies (ACCAs) in the Northern Territory, once funded.

This information can be found at page 130 of the Board of Inquiry Report.

### **Statistics**

11. What percentage of children notified to the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 are Aboriginal.

73%

12. What percentage of children in the care of the CEO of the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 are Aboriginal.

80%

13. What percentage of children notified to the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 and residing in the Central Australia region, are Aboriginal.

86%

14. What percentage of children in the care of the CEO of the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 and residing in the Central Australia region, are Aboriginal.

92%

15. What percentage of children notified to the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 and residing in the greater Darwin region, are Aboriginal.

50%

16. What percentage of children in the care of the CEO of the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 and residing in the greater Darwin region, are Aboriginal.

60%

17. What percentage of children notified to the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 and residing in the Katherine and Northern region, are Aboriginal.

88%

NOTE: Notifications received figure above does not include the number of notifications received by Territory Wide Services.

18. What percentage of children in the care of the CEO of the Department of Children & Families in 2010/2011 and residing in Katherine and the Northern Region, are Aboriginal.

91%

NOTE: Children in Care figure above does not include the Children in Care for Territory Wide Services.

19. How many children have died whilst in the care of the CEO of the Department of Children & Families in the last 10 years.

This information has been collected since 2006. Records indicate that four children in substitute care have died since that time.

20. How many children in the care have been charged with offences whilst in the care of the CEO of the Department of Children & Families in the last 10 years.

Not available.

21. How many children in the care of the CEO of the Department of Children & Families in the last 10 years – have been charged with sexual offences.

Not available.

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