

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Burgoyne to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services:

NT Police Dog Operations Unit

1. Please advise the number of operational dogs in the Territory.

There are 17 dogs ALL TOGETHER in the Territory with only 13 that are fully operational and in use currently.

Six of these are Patrol Dogs and seven are Drug Detection Dogs (DDD's).

One Patrol dog and three DDD's currently in training.

2. How many dogs are managed by the Alice Springs Dog Operations Unit?

Five.

3. How many handlers are employed to team with the dogs in Alice Springs?

Five.

4. How many operational dogs were bred in the Territory?

None.

5. How many operational dogs were trained in the Territory?

Seven patrol dogs (inclusive of the one dog in training) have been trained in the Territory.

Five of the DDD's were trained in the Territory.

6. For those not bred or trained in the Territory, what was the cost per dog?

The five DDD's that were trained in the Territory were done so with assistance from an outside provider. The Northern Territory Police do not use this method any longer. All new DDD's are trained interstate by other law enforcement agencies.

The Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) does not have the capability to train Drug Detection Dogs (DDD's); all training is completed interstate.

Procurement of DDD's costs between \$2500 and \$5000.

Costs associated with both the purchase of DDD's and a handler attending an intensive 10 to 12 week training course interstate are between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

7. Please advise if the dogs are used to assist in situations other than for the purpose of drug detection. Please give details.

The NTPF have patrol dogs and DDD's.

Patrol Dogs are utilised for tracking (offenders and articles), apprehending offenders, building searches and crowd control.

8. How many patrols are carried out in Alice Springs with the dogs? Please provide the time of day and the locations where this occurs. Please provide answers across 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22.

There is no recording system used within the NTPF that captures this information.

9. Please advise the budget for the Alice Springs Dog Operations Unit and the total annual cost across 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22.

There is no data available for the 2017/18 financial year due to the reporting system that was used at that time.

Refer to the below table for the budget and expenditure by financial year:

2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/21		2021/22	
Estimate		Estimate		Estimate		Estimate	
Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure
1,018,741.36	895,728.11	811,954.55	1,064,221.58	784,672.73	963,497.82	1,117,945.45	955,589.73