



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 185

## WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Treasurer, Hon William Yan MLA:

### **Transparency and Compliance Across Public Sector Organisations**

The written questions refer to public sector organisations as defined by the *Information Act 2002*, which includes organisations not forming part of the Northern Territory Government (such as local government councils) for which the Treasurer does not hold the requested information.

In other cases, the questions refer to a range of organisations that would need to be sourced directly from the public sector organisation. Where information is published in the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement or similar publication, it has been provided.

Other questions relate to Treasurer's Directions, which are only applicable to organisations nominated in the Administrative Arrangements Order as subject to the *Financial Management Act 1995* (FMA). These comprise Territory Government agencies and government business divisions but excludes government owned corporations and organisations external to government.

- 1. Please provide the Risk and Audit Committee papers (or equivalent) for each public sector organisation, as defined by the *Information Act 2002*, for the previous 12 months**

Risk and audit committees assist an Accountable Officer in discharging their internal audit responsibilities under the FMA. Treasurer's Directions, which represent mandatory policies to support the FMA, require that audit committee meetings are minuted and copies of those minutes provided to the Accountable Officer.

Accordingly, papers from each meeting would need to be sourced from the Accountable Officer for FMA public sector organisations or otherwise from the appropriate governing body of each other public sector organisation.

- 2. Please provide details of all hospitality expenditure for each public sector organisation for the previous 12 months, including the date, purpose, attendees and amount for each instance.**

Total hospitality expenditure for 2024-25 for public sector organisations to which the FMA applies is provided in the table below. Information relating to the date, purpose, attendees and amount of each instance is not recorded in the Government Accounting system (GAS) and would need to be sourced directly from each organisation.

Expenditure and details for other non-FMA organisation would need to be sourced directly from each organisation.

Agency	2024-25 \$
Department of the Legislative Assembly	30 986
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	940 198
Auditor-General's Office	25
Ombudsman's Office	643
Northern Territory Police Force	121 185
Office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption	54 684
Land Development Corporation	2 226
Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Service	130 461
Department of Treasury and Finance	23 691
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority	2 016
Department of Education and Training	292 017
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	55 737
Department of Lands, Planning and Environment	62 104
Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	39 246
NT Legal Aid Commission	470
Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	36 101
NT Fleet	
Department of Corporate and Digital Development	14 536
Department of Health	257 063
Department of Tourism and Hospitality	165 114
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	46 465
Department of Children and Families	73 580
Attorney-General's Department	50 774
Department of Corrections	43 860
Territory Wildlife Parks	196
Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory	21 087
Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations	115 159
Department of Mining and Energy	124 717
Department of People, Sport and Culture	62 376
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 766 716</b>

**3. Please table the gifts and benefits registers for each public sector organisation for the previous 12 months**

Declarations and recording of receipts of gifts and benefits registers are maintained in accordance with the policy of each organisation. Accordingly, gifts and benefits registers would need to be sourced directly from each organisation.

**4. Please provide details of all write-offs and losses for each public sector organisation for the previous 12 months, including the nature, amount and reason for each write-off or loss.**

The FMA requires the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement to include a report on all write-offs, waivers, postponements, and gifts approved under the FMA.

The table below presents the number of transactions and total expenses arising from write-offs, waivers, ex gratia payments and gifts approved under the FMA, as presented in the 2024-25 Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement (refer page 57). Details on the nature, amount and reason for each write-off or loss would need to be sourced directly from each organisation, noting that some of this detail is provided in the notes to the statement.

All details for write-offs and losses for other public sector organisations would need to be sourced directly from each organisation.

	General government			
	2024-25		2023-24	
	\$000	No.	\$000	No.
Irrecoverable money written off	2 799	34	232	22
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	194	20	96	13
Value of public property written off <sup>1</sup>	527	1	12 664	1 005 127
Waiver of right to receive or recover money <sup>2</sup>	1 195	177	10 387	4
<b>Write-offs and waivers approved by Treasurer</b>	<b>4 715</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>23 379</b>	<b>1 005 166</b>
Irrecoverable money written off	1 918	1 158	1 766	1 036
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	73	63	43	38
Value of public property written off <sup>1</sup>	453	1 952	2 153	10 316
Postponement of right to receive or recover money	258	50	340	201
<b>Write-offs and waivers approved by delegates</b>	<b>2 702</b>	<b>3 223</b>	<b>4 303</b>	<b>11 591</b>
<b>Total write-offs and waivers</b>	<b>7 417</b>	<b>3 455</b>	<b>27 682</b>	<b>1 016 757</b>
Gifts approved by Treasurer	915	17	447	2
Gifts approved by delegate	9	39	24	117
<b>Total gifts</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>119</b>
Ex gratia payments approved by Treasurer	27	1	37	2
<b>Total authorised under the <i>Financial Management Act 1995</i></b>	<b>8 368</b>	<b>3 512</b>	<b>28 190</b>	<b>1 016 878</b>
Write-offs and waivers <sup>3</sup>	12 162	554	22 044	251
Gifts <sup>4</sup>	4 655	4	96	1
<b>Total authorised under other legislation</b>	<b>16 817</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>22 141</b>	<b>252</b>

1 2023-24 predominantly relates to write-off of rapid antigen tests for the Department of Health and Northern Territory Police Force.

2 2023-24 reflects the waiver of an advance to Tiwi Plantation Corporation.

3 Write-offs, postponements and waivers authorised under other legislation include items approved under the *Medical Services Act 1982* and *Housing Act 1982*.

4 Gifts authorised under other legislation predominantly relates to land lots gifted under the *Crown Lands Act 1992* and *Housing Act 1982*.

**5. Please provide the Critical Incident Registers (or equivalent) for the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Corrections for the previous 12 months?**

This information would need to be sourced directly from the relevant agencies.

**6. How many public sector organisations currently have an up-to-date Accounting and Property Manual that is fully compliant with the Treasurer's Directions?**

**a. Which organisations do not meet this requirement?**

The FMA requires that Accountable Officers issue and maintain an accounting and property manual for use by the employees of the agency. Treasurer's Directions identify the minimum contents of agency accounting and property manuals and require that they be reviewed on a timely basis and submitted to the relevant Minister.

Accordingly, information on the last review and assessment of compliance with Treasurer's Directions would need to be sourced directly from each FMA organisation.

Other public sector organisations are not required to maintain an Accounting and Property Manual in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions