

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services:

Policing in Central Australia

1. How many Police are currently working in the remote areas of Central Australia (excluding Alice Springs and Tennant Creek)?
2. Exactly where are these Police assigned?
3. How much funding did the NT Government receive from the Commonwealth Government in the following years to fund remote policing in the NT:
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
4. Please give details for each of these years exactly how this funding has been allocated and will be allocated in the future.
5. Please explain why the NT Government is not responsible for Policing in remote areas.
6. What effort has been made by the Gunner Government to negotiate more funding from the Commonwealth Government for Policing in the NT?
7. Why have Police numbers reduced so much over the past 18 months?
8. Please provide full time equivalent for Police Constable Positions in the NT Government for:
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18 (to date)
9. Please provide details on the cost of a special advertisement mentioned by the Police Commissioner that has been made to try to attract people to the Police service in Alice Springs and who made the advertisement (the business).
10. What are the Police doing to address crime in Alice Springs?
11. What dates will the 30 new recruits being trained in Alice Springs commence their training and finish their training?
12. Will some of these recruits be placed in low staffed remote Police stations?

13. Is the problem of Domestic Violence in Papunya any worse than other remote communities in Central Australia?
14. What is being done to stop grog running in remote Central Australia?
15. What is being done to address Domestic Violence in Papunya?
16. How many Police officers are currently based at Papunya?
17. How many Police officers are currently based at Kintore?
18. How many Police officers are currently based at Hermansburg?
19. How many Police officers are currently based at Wallace Rockhole?
20. How many Police officers are currently based at Nyrripi?
21. How many Police officers are currently based at Napperby?
22. How many Police officers are currently based at Yuendumu?
23. How many Police officers are currently based at Ti Tree?
24. How many Police officers are currently based at Willora?
25. How many Police officers are currently based at Willowra?
26. How many Police officers are currently based at Utopia?
27. How many Police officers are currently based at Docker River?
28. How many Police officers are currently based at Mitijulu?
29. How many Police officers are currently based at Imanpa?
30. How many Police officers are currently based at Finke?
31. How many Police officers are currently based at Titjkala?
32. How many Police officers are currently based at Santa Teresa?
33. How many Police officers are currently based at Haasts Bluff?

ANSWER

1. Northern Territory Police: 41
Western Australia Police: 3

2. Police officers are assigned to the following stations:

- Ali Curung
- Avon Downs
- Arlparra
- Borrooloola
- Elliott
- Harts Range
- Kintore
- Kulgera
- Mutitjulu
- Ntaria
- Papunya
- Ti-Tree
- Yuendumu
- Yulara
- Santa Teresa

3. Details of the NT Police Force financials are available in the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) Annual Report which is published following the end of each financial year. Information on years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 are available at <http://pfes.nt.gov.au/Publications-and-forms.aspx>

Funding has not yet been received for projected years.

2014/15

2015/16

2016/17

2017/18

2018/19

2019/20

4. Funding Allocations 2015-18:

- 60% - Remote delivery of policing services
- 10% - Maintain two Operational Substance Abuse Intelligence Desks (SAID)
- 10% - Maintain three operational Dog Operations Units
- 10% - Maintain 2 Community Engagement Police Officers
- 10% - Maintain 50 remote police facilities

Funding Allocations 2019-20:

- 70% - Remote delivery of policing services
- 10% - Maintain two Operational Substance Abuse Intelligence Desks (SAID)
- 10% - Maintain three operational Dog Operations Units
- 10% - Maintain 50 remote police facilities

5. The NT Police Force is responsible for the delivery of policing services throughout the Northern Territory. The NT Police Force continues to staff these remote police stations where there is an identified need for a permanent and ongoing or temporary police presence in the community.
6. Funding from the current Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment National Partnership Agreement has not kept pace with the cost of service provision. The agreement was put in place following the 2007 NT Emergency Response and continues until 2021-22. As a way of detailing the unsustainable fiscal situation a full financial and functional audit has been undertaken with the results of the audit expected to become available soon. This information is critical to negotiations with the Commonwealth.
7. Police numbers are increasing. Current recruitment is on trend with the four-year recruitment plan and the Government's commitment to recruit 120 additional frontline police by 2020.
8.

2014-15	860.83
2015-16	805.17
2016-17	812.06
2017-18 (to date)	909.89
9. The special advertisement to attract experienced police officers to Alice Springs was created internally by the NTPFES and published on the NTPFES Facebook page. The cost of the advertisement related to airfares for NTPFES staff to travel to Alice Springs to shoot the video. Everyone in the video were NTPFES staff or family members. \$1,000 was spent to boost the Facebook page post.
10. Police are working closely with Government and non-government agencies to strengthen cooperation and coordination of resources, information sharing and joint response to crime in Alice Springs. This includes Operation Shulton which commenced on 1 December 2017 and is running until 11 February 2018. Operation Shulton is part of a whole of Government approach to 'Summer in Alice', a coordinated approach to dealing with issues which traditionally occur in Alice Springs over the summer holiday period.

Strike Force WINX continues its role of managing and investigating all youth crime. Aside from the investigation phase Strike Force WINX actively targets known high risk offenders ensuring compliance with sanctions such as bail curfews, reporting, non-association and other imposed conditions designed to break the cycle of offending.

Police in Alice Springs continue to utilise Point of Sale Intervention (POSI), targeted patrolling and 'hot spot' targeting as part of a suite of tactics to address crime, social disorder and community harm resulting from alcohol misuse.
11. There will be 32 officers undertaking training in Alice Springs. They began training on 29 January 2018 and will complete their training on 23 February 2018.
12. The deployment of the recruits will be based on operational demand. The recruits are being trained in Alice Springs and will be deployed to Southern Command.
13. An analysis of domestic violence issues across Central Australian communities of a similar size to Papunya indicates domestic violence levels in Papunya to be similar to other communities.

14. Police from remote communities, traffic operations and the Cross Border Team regularly conduct operations focusing on the transportation of illicit drugs and alcohol into alcohol protected areas through targeted operations and campaigns.
15. Domestic violence is addressed as part of the Community Safety Action Plan that includes community education, promoting the reporting of incidents and working closely with service providers in the community. Local police actively monitor repeat offenders, domestic violence order conditions and engage with victims to ensure appropriate support is provided through SupportLink referrals.
16. Three officers are stationed at Papunya.
17. Three officers are stationed at Kintore (2 NT members, 1 WA member). There is also an Aboriginal Liaison Officer stationed at the community.
18. Three officers are stationed at the community.
19. Nil – there is no police station or post at this location. It is serviced by Hermansburg. The NTPFES is currently conducting a comprehensive review of bush policing. The outcome of this review will affect policing strategies in remote regions and possibly establishment levels at particular stations or police posts. At the same time there is also work being done on the development of “service level agreements” with individual communities in a bid to improve service in remote areas. The outcome of both initiatives will impact on policing in remote regions. Staff in remote areas are also supported by regular and on-going visits from specialist units like TRG, Sex Crimes, Domestic Violence, Community Engagement and Forensics.
20. The community has a temporary Commonwealth police post. No police are currently stationed at this community. This community is serviced by Yuendumu Police (for additional information see answer 19).
21. Nil – there has never been a police station or post at the community. It is serviced by Ti Tree Police (for additional information see answer 19).
22. There are six members based at the community with the new Officer in Charge on transfer to the community and expected to arrive in February 2018.
23. Two officers are currently based in the community with one vacancy currently under recruitment.
24. Nil – there is no police station or post at this location. It is serviced by Ti Tree Police (for additional information see answer 19).
25. The community has a temporary Commonwealth police post. No police are currently stationed at this community. The community is serviced by Ti Tree Police (for additional information see answer 19).
26. Two officers are stationed at Arlparra and two members stationed at Harts Range who service the Utopia area.
27. Nil – there has never been a police station or post at this community. Docker River is serviced by the cross-border facility at Warakurna, WA which is staffed by one NT officer and two WA officers.
28. Two officers are currently stationed at the community.

29. The community has a temporary Commonwealth police post. No police are currently stationed in the community. The community is serviced by Kulgera Police (for additional information see answer 19).
30. The community has a temporary Commonwealth police post. No police are currently stationed in the community. The community is serviced by Kulgera Police.
31. Nil - there has never been a police station or post at Titjikala. This community is serviced by Santa Teresa (for additional information see answer 19).
32. Three officers are stationed at the community.
33. The community has a temporary Commonwealth police post. No police are currently stationed in the community. The community is serviced by Papunya Police (for additional information see answer 19).