

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

Youth Justice

- 1. How many specialist teams for 'crossover' youth are operating in Darwin and Alice Springs?**

ANSWER:

Territory Families chair a Crossover Working Group in Darwin and Alice Springs. The Crossover Working Groups provide a whole-of-government joint management committee comprised of senior representatives with operational and strategic youth services expertise. The groups work collaboratively to ensure a continuum of service delivery to those young people and their families with complex needs that are entrenched in the child protection and youth justice systems.

- 2. Have you established a mentorship program for crossover youth?**

ANSWER:

Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officers provide mentoring to crossover youth through the provision of case management services.

- 3. You have stated in the *Safe, Thriving and Connected* plan that you are working with the Australian Childhood Foundation to develop and implement a therapeutic model of residential care. Has this model been developed?**

ANSWER:

In line with the *Safe, Thriving and Connected* plan, Territory Families has been working with the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) to train both Territory Families and non-government residential care staff in the ACF's therapeutic residential care model. The model, developed by ACF, focuses on building relationships with young people suffering from traumatic experiences. It emphasises the importance of consistency and routine in helping to build safety for young people in residential care.

The ACF therapeutic residential care model is now operational in two Territory Families Residential Care homes in Darwin. A number of non-government organisations have in place a therapeutic residential care model.

- 4. How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education workers are employed at:**
- a. Don Dale?**
 - b. Alice Springs?**

ANSWER:

A key strategy of Territory Families as articulated in our Strategic Plan is to grow our Aboriginal workforce and engage Aboriginal people to better service children, families and communities. In March 2018, Territory Families implemented a Special Measures Plan for designated positions and priority preference for all vacancies. As at 31 March 2018, there were:

- a) two Aboriginal workers (Administrative Officer 5, Senior Youth Worker) at the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre, and
- b) two Aboriginal workers (Administrative Officer 3, Youth Justice Officer) at the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre.

- 5. I refer to pages 24-26 of the Safe, Thriving and Connected plan. How many Aboriginal persons sit on parole boards?**

This question should be referred to the Attorney-General.

- 6. How many children have the Transition from Care Officers assisted?**

ANSWER:

Transition from Care Officers work through Case Managers to assist young people transitioning from care.

A key responsibility of the Transition from Care Officers is to lead and manage systems that support Case Managers to proactively plan with young people. Transition from Care Officers co-ordinate and chair transition from care meetings for young people, their carers, family and involved services to plan a supported transition to adulthood. Since January 2018, there have been in excess of 42 initial transition from care meetings.

Transition from Care Officers maintain tracking data sheets for young people over the age of 15 within their Region assisting them to monitor and support care planning, there are currently 208 young people aged 15 to 17 in care across the Northern Territory.

- 7. How many new Transition from Care Officers have you recruited and what is the budget allocation for the new officers? Where are they based?**

ANSWER:

Three Transition from Care Officers commenced in January 2018 to provide high level leadership, research, advice and project support in the design, delivery and evaluation of strategies that aim to support young people's successful transition from care to independence.

Two officers are located in Darwin for the Greater Darwin and Northern Regions and one officer is located in Alice Springs for the Southern Region.

Transition from Care Officers are employed under either a Professional 3 (\$98,959-\$110,829) or Administration Officer 7 (\$101,695 - \$109,403) band. The annual budget allocation reflects the wages of the three individual officers.

8. How many restorative justice conferences have occurred in the 2017-2018 financial year?

ANSWER:

The full year data has not been submitted by the service provider.

Between 1 July to 31 March 2018, funded service providers advised that they completed 208 youth diversion conferences, of which:

- 82 were victim-offender conferences; and
- 126 were family group conferences.

An overview of each provider's youth justice conferences is at Table 1.

Table 1: Breakdown of the number of Youth Diversion Conferences completed by Service Providers for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018

Service Provider	Victim Offender	Family Group	Total
Jesuit Social Services	28	0	28
Anglicare	0	9	9
CatholicCare NT	6	37	43
East Arnhem	2	5	7
GEMYDU	2	7	9
MacDonnell Regional Council	4	2	6
Malabam Health Board	15	5	20
Maningrida	6	11	17
Relationships Australia NT	6	11	17
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	1	5	6
Warlpiri	1	0	1
YMCA Katherine	0	0	0
YWCA Darwin	17	45	62
Total Conferences	82	126	208

9. How many youths who undertook conferences have re-offended?

ANSWER:

The full year data has not been submitted by the service provider. Service providers cannot provide this information, it is not in their contract and the information has to come from the Department of Attorney-General and Justice through the Courts.

- 10. At the top of page 44 of the Safe, Thriving and Connected plan you commit to establishing three new Regional Youth Program Coordinators. Have these positions been recruited to?**

ANSWER:

The three positions have been established and recruited to in Palmerston, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Recruitment is currently underway for a further two positions established in Katherine and Darwin.

- 11. How much funding has been spent on Bail Accommodation at:**
- a. Gap Road?**

ANSWER:

In the 2017-2018 financial year, \$2.2 million was funded to Saltbush to manage the operation of the facility. One-off capital improvements of \$1.09 million were funded for infrastructure enhancements.

- b. Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services (young females)?**

ANSWER:

In the 2017-2018 financial year, \$700,000 was funded for Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services Inc. (ASYASS) to manage the operation of the facility. One-off capital improvements of \$41,000 were funded for infrastructure enhancements.

- c. Yirra House?**

ANSWER:

In the 2017-2018 financial year, \$2.2 million was funded to Saltbush to manage operation of the facility. One-off capital improvements of \$3.28 million were funded for infrastructure enhancements.

- d. Other locations?**

ANSWER;

Not applicable.

- 12. Out of this funding, how much in security measures has been spent at Gap Road?**

ANSWER:

In the 2017-2018 financial year, \$180,000 has been spent on security measures, including CCTV, fencing, security front gate and lighting.

- 13. How many female youth justice workers are employed in Detention Centres?**

ANSWER:

As at 31 March 2018, there were 25 (16.86 FTE) female Youth Justice Officers in the Don Dale and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centres.

14. Have you designed your course with the Australian Childhood Foundation to grant successful candidates a Certificate IV in Youth Justice? If so how many candidates have been awarded a Certificate IV and how many have been unsuccessful?

ANSWER:

Territory Families worked with the Australian Childhood Foundation in 2017 to design a course that provides a foundation Certificate IV in Youth Justice. Of the 23 Youth Justice Officers who commenced the Certificate IV in 2017, 16 have successfully completed the full Certificate IV and seven have a five day workshop to attend in September 2018.

15. In the 2017-2018 financial year, how many youths were managed by the YOREOS?

ANSWER:

Between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018, the Youth Outreach Re-Engagement Team across the Northern Territory have:

- received 456 referrals;
- managed 285 cases; and
- closed 130 cases.

The table below provides a breakdown by region of referrals, active and closed cases for the Youth Outreach Service (YOS).

Cases by Status by Program		1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018	
		Cases closed	Current cases
	Active cases		
YOS Tennant Creek	22	8	20
YOS Nhulunbuy	25	3	23
YOS Katherine	49	11	38
YOS Darwin/Palmerston	117	62	55
YOS Alice Springs	72	46	27
TOTAL	285	130	163

16. Of those youths managed by YOREOs during the above time period:

- a. How many have offended/re-offended while/since being case-managed?**
- b. How many have breached bail while/since being case-managed?**
- c. How many have entered detention while/since being case-managed, either on remand or sentenced?**

ANSWER:

This information is not currently collated in a systemic way as the data is held across numerous systems and agencies.

Bail Support Services are provided for young people aged 10-17 years to support them to comply with their bail conditions. The services include bail support accommodation, bail supervision, and a bail support and referral line.

Young people cannot 'escape' or 'abscond' from bail support accommodation as their engagement with the service is voluntary and they are able to leave at any time, by their own choice. This may however result in them breaching their bail conditions. If a young person breaches the conditions of their bail order, a Senior Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officer from Territory Families will work with the young person to develop appropriate interventions and strategies for meeting those conditions.

As of 31 March 2018, bail accommodation services had 45 young people bailed to their accommodation since 5 January 2018, of whom 14 left the facility resulting in a breach of bail conditions.

Under the *Youth Justice Act* Senior Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officers manage young people on supervised court orders which includes a condition to wear an electronic monitoring device. For the period 5 January 2018 to 7 June 2018, 45 young people were subject to electronic monitoring (EM) and 25 of these had breached their EM conditions.

17. Between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018, how many new Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers have been recruited?

ANSWER:

In the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018, there were a total of 10 commencements of Youth Outreach Re-Engagement Officers. This includes eight Administrative Officer 4, Youth Outreach Re-Engagement Officers and two Administrative Officer 5, Senior Youth Outreach Re-Engagement Officers.

18. Between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018 how many Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officers have separated, either through retirement, permanent transfer, resignation or termination?

ANSWER:

In the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018, there were eight Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officers who separated or transferred out of the Agency.

19. As at 31 March 2018, please list the locations where Youth Outreach and Reengagement Officers are stationed. How many Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers are located at each station?

ANSWER:

As at 31 March 2018, there were:

- Alice Springs –
 - 5 AO4 Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Officers (YOREO)
 - 2 AO5 Senior Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers (SYOREO)
 - 2 Professional 2 (P2) YOREO
- Tennant Creek
 - 1 YOREO
 - 1 SYOREO
 - 1 Team Leader Administrative Officer 7 (AO7)
- Palmerston / Darwin
 - 6 YOREOs
 - 4 SYOREOs
 - 3 Team Leader AO7 (one of whom oversees Arnhem)
 - 1 P2 YOREO (who oversees Katherine)
- Katherine
 - 3 YOREOs
 - 1 SYOREO
 - 1 Team Leader AO7
- Nhulunbuy
 - 1 YOREO
 - 1 SYOREO

20. What proportion of YOREOs hold a Certificate IV in Youth Work?

ANSWER:

As at 31 March 2018, there were 15 Youth Outreach Re-engagement Officers enrolled in the Certificate IV in Youth Justice. Territory Families encourages the completion of the Certificate IV in Youth Justice for both Youth Outreach Re-Engagement Officers and Youth Justice Officers with elective units aligned to the different roles. Employees undertaking the Certificate are supported by the training provider and Territory Families Education and Training work area to ensure successful completion.

21. How many school visits have been made by YOREOs, by location?

ANSWER:

Up until 30 June 2018:

REGION	
Alice Springs	6
Tennant Creek	2
Katherine	3
Nhulunbuy	2
Groote	1
Darwin/Palmerston	10
TOTAL	24