

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Public Employment:

Public Service Numbers

According to page 92 of the Langoulant Report, the ratio of Northern Territory public servants to head of population declined steadily from 1983 to 2002, at which point the ratio begins to increase. The number of 'Full Time Equivalent' public servants per capita is now double that of the rest of Australia. In terms of actual numbers of public servants, the NTPS has grown at an exponential rate since 2002.

Therefore, please advise:

1. Whether there is an accepted minimum and/or ideal ratio of public servants to head of population.
2. Whether there is an accepted minimum and/or ideal size of the public service.
3. How are these figures justified, should they exist?