

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Territory Families:

Darwin Judo Club Lease

Please advise:

- 1. If you received a letter from the Darwin Judo Club asking for action regarding a perpetual lease on their facility adjacent to the Don Dale Detention Centre at Berrimah;**

ANSWER:

I received two letters from the Darwin Judo Club on 9 October 2019 and 22 November 2019 (letter dated 20 November 2019). I referred both letters to Territory Families to make direct contact with the Club with the view to resolving the matter.

- 2. Why your Department refuses to action this lease, despite it being promised by Ministers in the previous government.**

ANSWER:

The Northern Territory Government is working with the Darwin Judo Club regarding their current access to the facility on the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre site. The Darwin Judo Club is identified as a stakeholder to be included in the consultation on the current and future use of youth justice facilities. This includes engaging with the Darwin Judo Club on the future plans for the site as we work towards the transition to the new Darwin Youth Detention facility.

It is expected the new Youth Justice Centre will be operational in 2022.

- 3. Whether you have met with the Darwin Judo Club over this matter.**

ANSWER:

On 1 November 2019, Territory Families extended an offer to meet with the Darwin Judo Club which was declined. Mr Ken Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Territory Families, has written to the Darwin Judo Club confirming the Darwin Judo Club can occupy the premises until decommissioning of the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre occurs, which is expected to be late 2022.

In this letter, Mr Davies also advised that Territory Families has contacted other Northern Territory Government agencies to seek assistance in identifying a future facility for the Darwin Judo Club to occupy, and that the Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture (DTSC) requested that the peak body for the sport, Judo NT, provide support and guidance for the Darwin Judo Club on this matter. DTSC will continue to liaise with Judo NT and the Darwin Judo Club as required.

I have also written to the Darwin Judo Club encouraging them to pursue the options suggested by Mr Davies in his letter.