

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families

Appropriation Bill – Territory Families

1. Please provide copies of:
 - All questions, which have been received from the public in relation to the Estimates process and consideration of the Appropriation Bill for the 2017/18 financial year; and
 - The answers to those questions that were presented to the Estimates Committee.

Please provide the information requested below for the Department of Attorney-General and Justice and the Department of Health, as at 31 March 2017.

TERRITORY FAMILIES

Please accept apologies if questions are not under the correct Output. Where this is the case, it would be appreciated if you could indicate the appropriate Output in your response. Thank You.

OUTPUT GROUP: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

OUTPUT: CHILD PROTECTION

1. How many child protection notifications have been received since 1 September 2016?

RESPONSE

For the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017, Territory Families received 13 342 child protection notifications.

- a. How many of these were screened for investigation?

RESPONSE

Of the 13 342 child protection notifications received, 5 448 child protection notifications proceeded to investigation and 7 894 did not proceed to investigation.

- b. How many total notifications were referred to an NGO provider for support?
- c. Of those not screened for investigation, how many were referred to an NGO provider for support?

- d. How many were neither screened for investigation nor referred to an NGO provider for support?

RESPONSE for 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d)

A referral to a non-government provider is not recorded within the child protection electronic case management system in a way that can be reported.

OUTPUT: OUT OF HOME CARE

1. How many children are currently in out of home care?

RESPONSE

As at 31 March 2017, there were 1 046 children in out-of-home care.

2. How many children have been placed in out of home care since 1 September 2016?

RESPONSE

There were 157 children admitted into out-of-home care for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017.

3. How many children are currently in kinship care?

RESPONSE

As at 31 March 2017, there were 232 children in a kinship care placement.

4. How many children have been placed in kinship care since 1 September 2016?

RESPONSE

As at 31 March 2017, 71 children commenced a kinship care placement since 1 September 2016.

5. How many children are currently in residential care facilities?

RESPONSE

There were 115 children in a residential care placement as at 31 March 2017.

6. How many children have been placed in residential care facilities since 1 September 2016?

RESPONSE

As at 31 March 2017, 68 children commenced a residential care placement since 1 September 2016.

7. How many children have been adopted in the Northern Territory since 1 September 2016?

RESPONSE

Four adoptions were processed by Territory Families as at 31 March 2017.

- a. How many were from overseas?

RESPONSE

There were two children from overseas.

- b. How many were from other parts of Australia?
RESPONSE
There were no children from other parts of Australia.
- c. How many were from the Northern Territory?
RESPONSE
There were two children from the Northern Territory.
8. How many children are currently on a protection order in the following categories:
- a. Short-term?
RESPONSE
As at 31 March 2017, there were 264 children on a short term order.
- b. Long-term?
RESPONSE
As at 31 March 2017, there were 691 children on a long term order.
- c. Adjournment?
RESPONSE
As at 31 March 2017, there were 114 children on an order on Adjournment.

OUTPUT: FAMILY SUPPORT

1. How many total families as first teachers sites are operating?
RESPONSE – provided by the Department of Education
As at 31 March 2017, there were 29 Families as First Teachers programs operating in the Northern Territory (27 remote and 2 urban).
- a. How many new sites were established since 1 September 2016 and what are their locations?
RESPONSE – provided by the Department of Education
Six additional sites were established since 1 September 2016:
- Alpururulam – Alice Springs
 - Barunga-Wugular – Katherine
 - Nganmarryanga – Palmerston and Rural
 - Tennant Creek – Barkly
 - Ludmilla Primary School – Darwin
 - Mimik-ga Centre (Early Intervention Learning Hub) – Darwin
2. How many sites have ceased operation since 1 September 2016?
RESPONSE – provided by the Department of Education
No Families as First Teachers site has ceased operation since 1 September 2016.

OUTPUT: YOUTH JUSTICE

1. When will the review of the Youth Justice Act be complete?

RESPONSE

Work is underway to review the *Youth Justice Act* to ensure it reflects Machinery of Government changes in 2016. Finalising the *Youth Justice Act* will be completed after recommendations are handed down from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

- a. Will the new planned youth justice facility and MODE report be considered under the review?

RESPONSE

Any legislative changes that impact on the design of youth justice facilities will take into account the MODE report.

- b. Will the Royal Commission's findings be considered under the review?

RESPONSE

Yes.

2. Between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017, how much has been spent on repairs, refurbishments, renovations and upgrades to the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre?

RESPONSE

Over the period of 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017, \$1 969 326 was spent on repairs, refurbishment, renovations and upgrades at the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre.

3. Between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017, how much has been spent on repairs, refurbishments, renovations and upgrades to the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre?

RESPONSE

Over the period of 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017, \$49 418 was spent on repairs, refurbishment, renovations and upgrades at the Alice Springs Youth Detention Site Centre.

4. Has a site been identified for a new youth detention centre in Darwin?

RESPONSE

No.

5. Why have funds not been budgeted to commence works on a new youth detention centre in Darwin? How soon is 'as soon as possible'?

RESPONSE

The recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory will inform the program design for youth in detention which in turn will drive the planning for the infrastructure in the new facility.

- a. Will it be included in the 2018-19 budget?

RESPONSE

Funding will be determined following the outcomes of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

6. Will the second extension of the Royal Commission delay the commencement of a new youth detention centre in Darwin?

RESPONSE

The recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory will inform planning for the new detention centre. A timeframe on commencement of the new centre will be determined once recommendations are received.

7. Will the Royal Commission findings be considered as part of the Outline Design Brief provided by MODE for a new Darwin detention centre.

RESPONSE

Yes. Further detailed planning will be undertaken for any new facility.

8. What is the estimated cost of the youth detention centre proposed by MODE?

RESPONSE

MODE did not estimate a cost.

9. Which NGOs will receive additional funding to tackle youth crime? Which will not receive additional funding?

RESPONSE

In 2017-18, \$2.95 million will be provided for pre-court youth diversion case management services to eleven non-government providers. Anglicare, Catholic Care, East Arnhem Shire, Groote and Milyakburra Youth Development Unit, MacDonnell Shire Council, Malabam Health Board, Relationships Australia, Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Walpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation, YMCA Katherine and YMCA Darwin.

In 2017-18, \$1.8 million will be provided for Wilderness Camps. This consists of Early Intervention and Prevention Wilderness Camps run by Operation Flinders and Sentenced Youth Wilderness Camps run by BushMob. On 11 July 2017, BushMob announced its withdrawal from the Sentenced Youth Wilderness Camp at Loves Creek.

During 2017-18, \$4.86 million has been allocated for Bail Support Services in Darwin and Alice Springs. Territory Families is progressing with a full procurement process to acquire non-government provider/s.

A pilot program has commenced with Jesuit Social Services for the provisioning of youth victim conferencing services to the value of \$550 000.

There has been no decrease, for this financial year (2017-18), in funding for non-government providers who were funded in 2016-17.

10. What are the funding criteria for the NGOs being enlisted to tackle youth crime? How were the successful NGOs chosen and which ones were excluded?

RESPONSE

These providers were recipients of funding for 2016-17. The Agreements were extended for a period of 12 months as of 30 June 2017.

The Chief Minister announced an investment in victim conferencing on 9 February 2017.

11. How many additional victim conferences have been conducted since March 2017?

RESPONSE

From 1 March 2017 to 19 July 2017, Jesuit Social Services advised they conducted 16 victim conferences.

a. How many of the offenders involved in the conferences have reoffended since?

RESPONSE

Between 1 March 2017 and 19 July 2017, one person is known to have re-offended.

b. How many of the offenders involved in the conferences have not reoffended since?

RESPONSE

As at 19 July 2017, 15 young people have not re-offended.

12. How many Youth Justice Officers are currently working at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre?

RESPONSE

There are 119 staff employed across these centres.

a. How many are currently on temporary contract?

RESPONSE

There are 45 staff on temporary contracts and 16 casuals.

b. How many are permanently employed?

RESPONSE

58 permanent employees.

c. How many have separated – either through retirement, resignation or termination, since March 2017

RESPONSE

Between 1 April 2017 and 1 July 2017, there were two resignations, one casual contract cessation, and two transfers out.

13. Of the 25 Youth Justice Officers recruited in March 2017, how many completed the six week training?

RESPONSE

There were 24 Youth Justice Officers who completed the training. One failed to complete due to medical reasons.

- a. How many are currently on temporary contract?

RESPONSE

A condition of employment is the successful completion of the Certificate IV in Youth Justice within a 12 month period, together with on the job support throughout the process. Permanent appointment will be offered upon the successful completion of the qualification and satisfactory work performance.

- b. How many are permanently employed?

RESPONSE

Nil. Refer (a) above.

- c. How many have separated – either through retirement, resignation or termination, since March 2017

RESPONSE

Between 1 April 2017 and 1 July 2017, there has been one resignation and one internal transfer.

14. How many youth are currently being detained at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre?

RESPONSE

As at 18 July 2017, there were 36 youth detained at the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre

- a. How many are on remand and how many have been sentenced?

RESPONSE

As at 18 July 2017 there were:

- 20 males and 5 females on remand; and
- 10 males and 1 female sentenced

- b. How many are being detained for breach of bail?

RESPONSE

There were 19 out of 25 detained for breach of bail.

- c. Of those sentenced, how many have been in detention before?

RESPONSE

9 out of 11 have previously been in detention.

- d. Of those on remand, how many have been in detention before?

RESPONSE

20 out of 25 have previously been in detention.

15. How many youth are currently being detained at Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre?

RESPONSE

There are 12 youth detained at the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre.

- a. How many are on remand and how many have been sentenced?

RESPONSE

As at 18 July 2017 there were:

- 11 males on remand; and
- 1 male sentenced.

- b. How many are being detained for breach of bail?

RESPONSE

10 out of 11 detainees have been remanded for breach of bail.

- c. Of those sentenced, how many have been in detention before?

RESPONSE

Nil.

- d. Of those on remand, how many have been in detention before?

RESPONSE

All have previously been in detention.

16. When is the Youth Detention Restraint Practice Advisory Group expected to complete the development of their policy?

RESPONSE

This Advisory Group was established by the former Department of Correctional Services in June 2016. Its purpose was to provide specialist advice to the Commissioner of Correctional Services about restraint practices in youth detention and to inform the development of a Schedule of Approved Restraints. Territory Families understands the group no longer meets as it has fulfilled its purpose, and deliberations have informed clauses of the current *Youth Justice Act* (as in force at 12 April 2017) e.g. s151AA, s151AB, s155 and s158A

- a. What outcome measurements will be applied?

RESPONSE

The Advisory Group's deliberations informed clauses of the *Youth Justice Act* (as in force at 12 April 2017): e.g. s151AA, s151AB, s155 and s158A. In particular, s158A of the *Act* requires the Superintendent of a detention centre to keep a register of particulars in relation to the use of approved restraints

17. How many youth diversion workers are there currently?

RESPONSE

As at 19 July 2017, there was 44 Youth Diversion staff. Recruitment actions are in progress to fill vacancies.

18. In what ways do the youth diversion workers support families and young people?

RESPONSE

Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers support young people and families by:

- building positive relationships;
- assessing the criminogenic risks/needs of the young person;
- assisting the young person to establish goals for the future and cease behaviours that place them at risk and offending behaviours;

- planning and coordinating services that will assist the young person achieve their goals;
- engaging the young person with services and interventions using methods that are meaningful and appropriate to the young person;
- supporting the young person in goal achievement and assessing their progress;
- advocating on behalf of the young person;
- strengthening the capacity of services to provide responsive interventions that target antisocial behaviour and address their criminogenic risks and needs;
- providing, and/or assisting, primary case management services for identified young people;
- coordinating services to minimise overlaps and duplication;
- organising and co-ordinating case conferences;
- facilitating services working with a young person's family experiencing vulnerability;
- documenting the case management process, monitoring the young person's progress and evaluating the outcomes;
- providing a seamless approach to case management of a young person; and,
- reporting back to the Court as required.

a. How do they work operationally, and who do they report to?

RESPONSE

Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers are based in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Palmerston and Nhulunbuy. They work with local service providers to coordinate services and responses for youth at risk of entering, or already intersecting with the youth justice system. A senior officer is based in Alice Springs and Palmerston. The Tennant Creek office reports to Alice Springs and the Katherine and Nhulunbuy office reports to Palmerston.

19. Of the 52 youth diversion workers originally recruited, how many have separated – either through retirement, resignation or termination?

RESPONSE

Between 1 April 2017 to 9 July 2017, there was one resignation, one termination and six transfers out.

20. What training has been / will be undertaken by the youth diversion workers?

RESPONSE

Staff completed a comprehensive three week training course that incorporated various topics required to undertake the Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officer role. These included, Risk Needs Assessment, Case Management, Restorative Practice, Management of Alcohol or Potential Aggression and team building.

As part of the training program, staff completed one Unit of the Australian Childhood Foundation Certificate IV in Youth Work, “Work effectively in trauma informed care” and one Unit from Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Intervention “Work with children and young people with complex trauma and attachment issues and needs”.

All staff will continue to participate in Territory Families training opportunities and Youth Outreach workers have been offered support to complete the Certificate IV.

- a. What is the cost of the training?

RESPONSE

The cost of the three week training course was \$42 637.

Territory Families engaged the Australian Childhood Foundation to deliver a range of trauma informed training modules for both Youth Justice Officers, Youth Outreach workers and other Territory Families staff. The costs for the Australian Childhood Foundation training modules is not in the above figure.

A number of modules of training were delivered by Territory Families staff. These costs have not been included.

21. How many young offenders have so far been case managed by youth diversion workers?

RESPONSE

As at 19 July 2017, there were 60 young people at risk of entering, or who have had contact with the criminal justice system, being case managed by Youth Outreach and Re-engagement workers. Regional breakdown:

- 28 - Northern Region
- 32 - Southern Region

- a. How many have breached bail?

RESPONSE

Territory Families works closely with Community Corrections and Northern Territory Police to support young people who are being case managed by Youth Outreach and Re-engagement teams.

Young people on supervised bail by Community Corrections is recorded on the Integrated Offender Management System.

Information on young people who are on police bail is held by Northern Territory Police.

Breach of bail is an offence; however current reports produced by the Integrated Offender Management System can report only the Most Serious Offence. If breach of bail is one of several offences, only the Most Serious Offence will be reported.

- b. How many have reoffended?

RESPONSE

Not all young people case managed by Youth Outreach and Re-engagement workers have been charged with an offence.

22. How many young offenders were not referred to a youth diversion worker in the course of their contact with the justice system?

RESPONSE

There are a number of pathways which includes direct referral by the courts to a non-government youth diversion service provider. Information with non-government providers on individual youth is not held by Territory Families.

- a. How many breached bail?

RESPONSE

Refer 21 a

- b. How many reoffended?

RESPONSE

Refer 21 b

23. How many young people commenced a Youth Boot Camp since 1 September 2016?

RESPONSE

Bushmob reported that the Sentenced Youth Boot Camp had 24 participants between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017 and another six since 1 April 2017. This includes sentenced and other participants.

- a. How many of these were sentenced as an alternative to detention?

RESPONSE

This information is not available from the service provider.

- b. How many of them completed the program?

RESPONSE

BushMob has reported 12 have completed the program.

- i. How many of these have reoffended?

RESPONSE

Information on individual youth at BushMob is held with the provider. Youth were directly referred to BushMob from the courts and information on reoffending is not kept by the provider.

- c. How many of them did not complete the program?

RESPONSE

BushMob has reported 18 did not complete the program.

- i. How many of these have reoffended?

RESPONSE

This information on individual youth at BushMob is held with the provider. Youth were directly referred to BushMob from the courts and information on reoffending is not kept by the provider.

24. There is additional funding to boost current diversion programs and sentencing options for youths. Is there provision in the budget to expand the range of sentencing options available for youth?

RESPONSE

On 8 February 2017, the Chief Minister announced an additional \$18.2 million (including \$10 million in new funding) would be spent annually in the Northern Territory's youth justice system. The reform package included 52 youth diversion workers, additional funding for youth diversion programs offered by non-government organisations, bail support services and expansion of youth justice and victims' conferencing.

There are many different sentence options that a court can give a young person.

The type of sentence depends on the seriousness of the young person's crime and their circumstances. A Northern Territory court could do any of the following:

- continue the young person's bail, which may include electronic monitoring, with or without supervision;
- order a young people attend a diversion program;
- let the young person go with a warning and no penalty;
- give the young person a fine;
- order the young people to do community work;
- put the young person on a good behaviour bond with or without supervision;
- release the young person under certain supervision conditions;
- order alternative detention, where the young person is released to home detention on strict restrictions, which may include electronic monitoring;
- order a young person go to a detention centre for a period of time; and
- suspend their order to send a person to detention - which means a young person is released and may be on probation and under supervision.

25. Please detail how the \$4.86 million for bail support programs will be used?

RESPONSE

\$2.939 million has been allocated to the Darwin area to provide bail support services.

\$1.927 million has been allocated to Alice Springs to provide bail support services.

26. How many young offenders have been fitted with electronic monitoring bracelets since 1 September 2016?

a. How many of these were fitted by police under the new legislation?

RESPONSE – provided by the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Services

During the period of 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017, the Northern Territory Police Force did not issue any electronic monitoring bracelets.

b. How many have reoffended while wearing the device?

c. How many have breached bail conditions?

RESPONSE – provided by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

This information is not readily available from the IJIS, IOMS or Cronos systems and would require approximately 35 hours of a statistician's time to extract, match and analyse the data. Note that agency statistical resources are currently devoted to national reporting requirements including the preparation of the data for the Report on Government Services.

- Clarification: does “while wearing the device” include offending or breaches only during periods where the device was worn and functioning, or does it include offending and breaches during periods when offenders were ordered to wear the devices but had removed or tampered with them?
- Concatenation of periods of device connection and disconnection to create single episodes when offenders were ordered to wear the devices.
- Development of counting rules to enable offending and breach data for individuals wearing the devices for different periods of time to be combined into a single meaningful measure. Some individuals might wear the device for several months, while others might wear it for only a week or two: these groups would have very different opportunities to reoffend, and so a standard measure would have to be determined (e.g. reoffending events per number of days wearing the device, or per number of days ordered to wear the device).
- Cross-validation of the list of individuals and dates with apprehension data on new offences and breach of bail with the periods during which individuals were wearing the EM devices (or ordered to wear the devices).

OUTPUT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. When will work commence in redeveloping the Alice Springs Women's Shelter? What will the works consist of and when will works commence?

RESPONSE

The Alice Springs Women's Shelter is managing this project. The draft Grant Agreement is being reviewed with expected finalisation in August 2017. The Alice Springs Women's Shelter has employed a staff member to manage the capital works project.

2. Has a site been identified for the safe house in Galiwinku? When will works commence?

RESPONSE

A site has been identified. A formal request made to the Northern Land Council to undertake the consultations to obtain the necessary agreement for a lease from the traditional owners. An interim agreement has been given to proceed with the building permits and other land tenure and building requirements

3. When is the sexual violence prevention and response framework expected to be developed?

RESPONSE

Stakeholder consultations and engagements with key government, non-government and community groups have occurred across the Northern Territory to inform the development of the sexual violence prevention and response framework. This will form a part of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework that will be considered by government in 2017.

4. What early education campaigns have been budgeted to educate young people in their rights and responsibilities concerning domestic violence? How much is budgeted? How and where will they be operating?

RESPONSE

The Respectful Relationship Education program has been funded \$366 848 for 2017-18 with \$220 000 of the funding provided in the 2016-17 financial year and \$146 848 (the balance) provided in 2017-18. The Respectful Relationship Education program is based on the established Love Bites and Love Bites Junior programs and will be delivered in education programs in schools and in out-of-school settings with a youth justice focus across the Northern Territory. The funding will support two full time equivalent positions based in Alice Springs and Darwin and it will include professional development for Government staff working in and with youth justice to support the quality of care provided for young people in youth detention.

OUTPUT GROUP: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRAMS

OUTPUT: GENDER EQUITY

1. What will the \$1.2 million budgeted for gender equity be used for?

RESPONSE

The Office of Gender Equity and Diversity develops strategic policy and provides policy advice across government in relation to gender equality and diversity. The office undertakes project work to progress key reforms and administers grants and scholarships to provide equal opportunities for all Territorians to reach their full potential through gendered approaches.

The breakdown for the Office of Gender Equity and Diversity \$1.25 million annual budget is as follows:

Employees	\$ 890 000
Grants	\$ 140 000
Administration	\$ 220 000
Total	\$1 250 000

2. What is the current male to female ratio of key advisory and decision-making boards?

RESPONSE

As of 7 July 2017, the percentage of female membership on Northern Territory Government Boards and Committees is 35 per cent.

3. Will the women's consultative council continue to operate?
 - a. If so, how much has been budgeted for its continuation?
 - b. If it will not continue, why not?

RESPONSE

A review of the current advisory/consultative mechanisms and how they connect with government commitments and other agency advisory mechanisms is currently underway.

4. Has money been budgeted for urgent rectification work to build a wall separating high-security male prisoners from women in the Darwin Correctional Precinct?
 - a. If so, when are works expected to be completed?
 - b. If not, why not?

RESPONSE - provided by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

There has been no money budgeted to build a wall separating high-security male prisoners from the women prisoners. In June 2017, an existing three metre high chain mesh fence was covered in shade cloth in order to provide privacy between the female and male sectors at the Darwin Correctional Centre using the Darwin Correctional Precinct's budget.

5. Has money been budgeted for urgent rectification work to the Alice Springs watch house in order to make it safe for women?
 - a. If so, when are works expected to be completed?
 - b. If not, why not?

RESPONSE - provided by the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Services

There have been no issues identified with the Alice Springs Watch House catering for female detainees over the age of 15 years.

Territory Families input into response

The scope of works has been agreed with Territory Families and the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services. The cost and timeframe for works is in development.

6. How much is provisioned in the budget to support women in the public service workforce, including flexible working arrangements, working from home, job share, part time work, etc?
 - a. What initiatives will be operating to support women in the public service?

RESPONSE - Information provided to the Office of Gender Equity and Diversity by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment

\$3.6 million has been budgeted for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment for Workforce Planning and Development. This includes facilitating and promoting professional development opportunities to build capability across the NTPS, with a focus on core skills capability, management and leadership development, including the promotion of equity and diversity throughout the NTPS.

In 2016/17 the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment had a number of initiatives to continue to build the population of women in leadership positions including:

- The Discovery – Women as Leaders program: an intensive leadership program aimed at personal and professional development.
- Lookrukin, the NTPS Indigenous women's leadership program, specifically designed to offer the knowledge and skills to increase effectiveness in their current roles. Participants attain a Diploma of Management.

OUTPUT: SOCIAL INCLUSION

1. What will the \$2.7 million budgeted for social inclusion be used for?

RESPONSE

This is funding for the operational, grant and program costs associated with the Office of Youth Affairs and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

OUTPUT GROUP: SENIORS AND CARERS

OUTPUT: SENIORS AND CARERS

1. Why are pension concession recipients not listed in the 2017-18 Budget?

RESPONSE

As listed on page 255 of the 2017-18 Agency Budget Statements, there are 19 700 Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme recipients.

2. Why was the start date of the changes to the pensioner concession scheme changed from 1 July 2017 to 1 January 2018?

RESPONSE

The delay in changes to the scheme is to allow for full community consultation on how to reform the existing scheme. Community consultation will run through July 2017 and August 2017.

3. Will all of the current pensioner concession scheme subsidies, discounts and concessions be retained after the changes to the pensioner concession scheme?

RESPONSE

No decisions have been made on changes to the existing Scheme. Government will consider feedback from the community consultation process in determining how to reform concessions in the future.

4. Will there be any reduction in benefits for existing members or new members of the pensioner concession scheme?

RESPONSE

No decisions have been made on changes to the existing Scheme. Government will consider feedback from the community consultation process in determining how to reform concessions in the future.

5. Will members of the pensioner concession scheme continue to receive, to an equal or greater amount than currently receive, the following concessions and subsidies:

- a. Electricity/alternate energy?
- b. Local council property rate?
- c. Water rates?
- d. Sewerage rates?
- e. Garbage charges?
- f. Motor vehicle registration?
- g. Drivers licence?
- h. Spectacles, including for dependents?
- i. Public transport?
- j. Interstate/overseas travel?

RESPONSE

No decisions have been made on changes to the existing Scheme. Government will consider feedback from the community consultation process in determining how to reform concessions in the future.

6. Which of the above concessions will continue to be processed automatically through the billing systems of the relevant service providing agencies?

RESPONSE

No decisions have been made on changes to the existing Scheme. Government will consider feedback from the community consultation process in determining how to reform concessions in the future.

7. Please detail the cost to deliver the pensioner concession scheme by financial year from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

RESPONSE

Pensioner Concessions	Actual \$000
2015-16	27 087
2014-15	29 987
2013-14	28 351
2012-13	26 189
2011-12	24 759

8. Please detail how many people accessed the pensioner concession scheme by financial year from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

RESPONSE

2013-14	21,207
2014-15	20,515
2015-16	19,546

Territory Families does not have access to data for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

9. Please detail the total cost incurred to deliver concessions/subsidies in the following categories in the last financial year under the pensioner concession scheme:

- a. Electricity/alternate energy
- b. Local council property rates
- c. Water rates
- d. Sewerage rates
- e. Garbage charges
- f. Motor vehicle registration
- g. Drivers licence
- h. Spectacles, including for dependents
- i. Public transport
- j. Interstate/overseas travel
- k. Any other concessions/subsidies

RESPONSE

Figures below are for the estimates period of 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017. Territory Families does not have data for public transport costs.

Electricity	\$10,835,087
Council Rates	\$1,490,829
Water Rates	\$2,563,838
Sewerage	\$1,260,544
Garbage	\$123,891
Motor Vehicle registration	\$1,157,775
Drivers licence	\$474,272
Spectacles	\$1,091,825
Travel	\$925,045
Other	\$165,718
Total at 31 March 2017	\$20,016,827

OUTPUT GROUP: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

OUTPUT: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

Staffing

1. How many Full Time Equivalents are currently employed within this Agency, broken down by Output and Business Unit?

RESPONSE

As at 31 March 2017, Territory Families employed 786.96 Full Time Equivalent staff.

Breakdown by Output Group / Business Unit

Output Group	FTE
Child Protection	150.51
Family Support	117.65
Out of Home Care	256.81
Corporate & Governance	110.45
Shared Services Received	0.00
Domestic Violence	10.73
Gender Equity	6.70
Seniors and Carers	10.75
Social Inclusion	6.78
Youth Justice	116.58
Total	786.96

HRAM008

2. How many Full Time Equivalents have resigned, retired, taken a redundancy package or been made redundant, or terminated? Please break these numbers by Output and Business Unit.

RESPONSE

As at 31 March 2017, a total of 126 Territory Families staff resigned, retired, took a redundancy or had their employment terminated.

Breakdown by Output Group

Output Group	FTE
Child Protection	30.06
Family Support	25.53
Out of Home Care	46.56
Corporate & Governance	6.23
Shared Services Received	0
Domestic Violence	5.13
Gender Equity	0.01
Seniors and Carers	2.03
Social Inclusion	1.02
Youth Justice	9.43
Total	126.00

HRAM004

3. What has happened to these positions? Has the work been reallocated to existing staff?

RESPONSE

Where there are no changes to roles or structures, positions are advertised post resignations and retirements, and refilled through standard recruitment processes. A redundancy applies when the role no longer exists whereby some, or all, of the functions are redistributed.

4. Are there any plans to fill these positions in the near future?

RESPONSE

All re-designed and new executive roles have recently been advertised following extensive organisational re-design work to ensure the organisational structure is fit for purpose, meeting government's objectives. A Placement Committee is established to review all vacancies to ensure an agile workforce for the future, prior to filling positions as opposed to filling positions on a status quo basis.

CHILDREN – OTHER

Please accept our apologies for not placing these questions under an Output. It would be appreciated if your response could indicate which Output should be used.

1. When will the Child and Adolescent Health Plan be developed?

RESPONSE – to be provided by the Department of Health

- a. Who will be involved in developing the plan?
- b. Will expert panellists be recruited?
- c. How will outcomes of the plan be measured?

2. Has the First Circles program membership has been reduced to 10 members?

RESPONSE – provided by the Department of the Chief Minister

- a. If so, why has the membership been cut in half?

RESPONSE

No, the program will support 16 members

- b. Has the budget also been cut in half to run this program?

RESPONSE

No, the budget has not been cut, it is still at the same level as when it was first approved in 2015. The available funding supports 16 members, with the former Department meeting the costs for the additional 14 from its existing budget. The First Circles Program will continue to support emerging Aboriginal leaders from across remote communities. First Circles members will continue to meet with the NT Government to discuss solutions and opportunities for Government. Members will also work together and within their communities to build their skills to be the next generation of community leaders.

- c. Will the First Circles program still be actively participating in Cabinet meetings on a regular basis?

RESPONSE

The First Circles members will meet directly with Government once a year.

- d. How many times has the First Circles program participated in Cabinet meetings between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017?

RESPONSE

At this point, there has been no meeting with Cabinet.

- e. Have other measures/programs been budgeted to liaise with aboriginal community members in the absence of half of the First Circles membership?

RESPONSE

Staff that had previously worked in the Community Champions program have been refocused to support all remote Aboriginal communities in a range of programs, with an emphasis on supporting Local Decision Making

- f. Have other measures/programs been budgeted to promote indigenous community leadership in the absence of half of the First Circles membership?

RESPONSE

The \$2 million Remote Aboriginal Development Fund comprises of \$1 million to support remote economic development initiatives through the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation and \$1 million to support governance and capacity-building initiatives through the Department of the Chief Minister.

3. Why has the Youth Round Table been moved from the Chief Minister portfolio to the Territory Families portfolio?

RESPONSE

Responsibility for the youth portfolio, including the Northern Territory Youth Round Table, transferred to the Minister for Territory Families as part of the Machinery of Government changes.

- a. What is the budget for the Youth Round Table?

RESPONSE

The budget for the Youth Round Table in 2016-17 was \$67 000.