

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

## Territory Families Procurement

1. I refer to the Answer to Written Question 211, page 13, table 7 (see below).

Table 7: Procurement Activities where a public quotation process was not undertaken for period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018

Lease of Portable Radios for Youth Detention Centers	\$437,659.00	Current IT provider engaged. ICNNT confirmed contractor is the single supplier for these services.	General Manager, Youth Justice
Provision of Grounds Maintenance, Horticultural Training and Vocational Therapeutic services for young people in Detention	\$278,080.00	Certificate of Exemption for an alternative procurement method approved in accordance with Procurement Rules 6.2b. Unsolicited proposal received from local Aboriginal enterprise. The proposal with met the Governments philosophy on therapeutic care for young people in detention, offering skills development program that creates future employment pathways.	General Manager, Youth Justice
Provision of Custodial and Building Security Services for a Period of 4 Months	\$233,991.00	Certificate of Exemption approved for an alternative procurement method in accordance with Procurement Rules 6.2b. Due to constraint of time, interim contract sought while the procurement process for a longer term contract takes place.	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations
Provision of Office Fit out for Youth Outreach Re-Engagement Team	\$284,745.00	Direct Procurement undertaken. Building owner has first right to complete the works under the existing Lease Agreement with the Territory. Procurement Rule 6.3.4 (H)(11), Delegated Officer, Chief Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer

**Four Tier 3 contracts were awarded without a public quotation process. Please advise the reason for this.**

**ANSWER:**Lease of Portable Radios for Youth Detention Centres

A sole select Request for Quotation from the existing supplier, Combined Communications Solutions Pty Ltd (trading as Comm8), was undertaken as this company has the necessary repeater stations in both Darwin and Alice Springs to provide full radio coverage over the required area of operations. COMM8 has provided this service for Northern Territory Correctional Services for the past six years under Contract D10-0382. Local research indicates no other company is prepared to provide a radio 'lease' service. COMM8 is a Territory based company and is also the Northern Territory reseller of the NEC portable radio used by Youth Justice Officers and Northern Territory Correctional Services.

### Provision of Grounds Maintenance, Horticultural Training and Vocational Therapeutic services for young people in Detention

Territory Families received an unsolicited proposal from Tri-odia NT, which fits with the Government's principles of providing therapeutic activities designed for children on remand or sentenced to detention and promoting the development of Aboriginal organisations. Tri-odia is a local Aboriginal enterprise who is emerging into the commercial space. Engagement with Government through a contract is of benefit to their business growth in that the partnership fosters further development of their governance and commercial structure, positioning them to tender for other future works. The Agency decided to make this a pilot program, partnering with Tri-odia NT.

This complies with Procurement Rule 2, Local Content and Aboriginal Participation which specifies the agency must consider opportunities to maximize local content as well as Aboriginal participation and employment. This is further specified under the Conditions of Contract – Supply of Services section 19.2, Use of Labour, Supplies and Services. This contract is for a period of four months.

### Provision of Custodial and Building Security Services for a Period of four Months

The Don Dale Youth Detention Centre was a property previously managed by the Department of Corrections however, with the Machinery of Government changes in September 2016, this was transferred to Territory Families, which includes all ongoing security responsibilities. The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice had notified their intention to extend the existing contract however, advised that the contract would not be in place for Territory Families to utilise. Due to constraint of time the existing contractor was approached. This contractor has the capability and capacity to provide effective service delivery.

### Provision of Office Fit out for Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Team

The Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement program was established at the Katherine East Shopping Centre. A lease was entered into with Northern Territory Property Management and the building owner committed to completing a list of works including paint, carpet and lighting, as part of the lease and his contribution. The building owner has first right to complete building works under the Lease Agreement. By utilising the building owner under their leasing agreement, Territory Families removed risk if this procurement was put out to tender.

## **2. In regards to the lease for Portable Radios for Youth Detention Centres:**

- a. Why did ICNNT confirm 'contractor is the single supplier of services'? Where else might portable radios be leased from?**

### **ANSWER:**

ICNNT was contacted with one Northern Territory supplier being identified, CSE Global. Within the Northern Territory, CSE Global is represented by both

COMM8 and CSE-COMSOURCE. Other providers external to the Territory may have portable radios for lease however, they are not established in the Territory and would require additional start-up considerations. As COMM8 already have the radio infrastructure in place with the required coverage, they are the preferred supplier.

**b. Was a Certificate of Exemption approved in accordance with Procurement Rule 6.2b?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, a Certificate of Exemption was approved in accordance with Procurement Rule 6.2b.

**3. In regards to the 4 month provision of Custodial and Building Security Services:**

**a. Please advise why there was a constraint of time.**

**ANSWER:**

The contract was due to expire on 2 November 2017. The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice had notified their intention to extend the existing contract for this service however; Territory Families was informed in October 2017 that this contract would not be in place for the Agency to utilise.

**b. If there were no time constraints, would a better price than \$58,497.75 per month have been obtained?**

**ANSWER:**

This is unknown as a public quotation process was not undertaken.

**c. Has procurement for a long term contract concluded?**

**a. What is the value of the long term contract?**

**b. Who was awarded the Contract?**

**ANSWER:**

Territory Families transitioned from a self-serviced Agency to a shared service delivery model supported by Procurement NT, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation (DTBI) in June 2018. The existing contract has been extended for a further six month period (to 2 February 2019) to the value of \$350,986.50 which will allow for a full procurement process to be conducted through the services provided by DTBI.

**d. During the term of the previous Contract, how many escapes or attempted escapes occurred at Detention Centres?**

**ANSWER:**

The functions facilitated by the security contractor are not directly attributed to the young people and as a result there have been no escapes or attempted escapes at Detention Centres that relate to this contract and as such it is not responsible for contributing to the incident.

**e. Is there a KPI in the Contract regarding escapes or attempted escapes?**

**ANSWER:**

No, this is not within the scope of this agreement as they do not work directly with the young people being detained within the Centre.

**4. Office Fit out for YOREO Team Office**

**a. Please advise the location of the office.**

**ANSWER:**

Shops 3, 5, 6 and 7 Katherine East Shopping Centre, Grevillea Road, Katherine.

**b. How many staff will work in the office?**

**ANSWER:**

Five staff work in this office.

**c. Has the Building Owner completed the works?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, works have been completed.

**d. If the Building Owner did not have a contractual right to complete works under the Lease, could a better price have been obtained for the fit out?**

**ANSWER:**

The building owner has first right to complete works under the lease and the Agency did not seek comparative quotes.