

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

Staffing in Youth Detention Centres

1. In the 17/18 financial year, how many staff employed in youth detention centres ceased employment in the centres due to:
- Resignation
 - Termination
 - Inter-Agency Transfer
 - Inter-Government Transfer

Please distinguish between staff at Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre and Don Dale Youth Detention Centre.

ANSWER:

The following table provides the number of staff separations for reasons of resignation, termination including dismissal, inter-agency transfer and inter-government transfer in the 2017/2018 Financial Year.

Separation Reason	Darwin	Alice Springs	Total	Comments
Resignation	15	4	19	Of the 19 resignations, seven had contributing factors including impending discipline actions, suspected adverse criminal history and long term workers compensation claim.
Termination/Dismissal	2	0	2	Of the two dismissals, both related to breaches of the <i>Public Sector Employment Management Act</i> .
Inter-Agency Transfer	4	4	8	Transfers were to Department of Corrections, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Department of Attorney General and Justice, Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Department of Health.
Inter-Government Transfer	0	0	0	Nil.
Total	21	8	29	

In 2018/19, Territory Families is implementing an enhanced exit interview process to ascertain increased information about the reason employees choose to leave the Agency. Information from this will be used to inform future recruitment and retention activities, particularly for our frontline staff.

2. What proportion of Territory Families resignations in the 2017-2018 financial year were detention centre staff?

ANSWER:

There were 19 resignations from Youth Justice Officers in the 2017-18 financial year. This equates to 11.5 per cent of the 165 resignations from Territory Families in the same period.

3. In the 2017-18 financial year, how many staff were recruited to work in youth detention centres? How many of these new recruits are no longer employed at youth detention centres?

ANSWER:

In the 2017-18 financial year the youth detention centres recruited three staff to ongoing jobs, four staff to temporary jobs and eight staff on a casual basis.

Of these staff, one casual staff member and four temporary staff members are no longer employed in a youth detention centre. Two of the temporary staff resigned and the other two separated as their temporary contract had ceased. The casual staff also separated as their casual contract expired.

However, in March 2017, the Agency recruited 17 Youth Justice Officers and in July 2018 an additional 44 Youth Justice Officers, as part of the response to the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

4. Is recruitment ongoing for detention staff?

ANSWER:

Recruitment is ongoing for detention centre staff at Alice Springs with several Administrative Officer 4 Youth Worker vacancies currently advertised to fill 15 vacancies. A recruitment exercise will shortly be underway for two Administrative Officer 5 Senior Youth Workers, one each at the Darwin and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centres. There will be ongoing recruitment (at a minimum on a quarterly basis) to fill vacancies within Youth Justice to ensure an optimum staffing complement.

5. As at 11 July 2018, how many vacant positions are at:

a) Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre?

ANSWER:

As at 11 July 2018 there was one Administrative Officer 5 Senior Youth Worker position vacant and 13 Administrative Officer 4 Youth Justice Worker positions vacant at the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre.

b) Don Dale Youth Detention Centre?

ANSWER:

As at 11 July 2018 there was one Administrative Officer 5 Senior Youth Justice Worker position vacant at the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre.

6. In the 2017-2018 financial year, how many staff have sustained injuries in the course of their duties at the detention centres?

ANSWER:

The below table provides data on injuries sustained across the entire Youth Justice division in Territory Families during the 2017-18 financial year.

All incidents resulting in injuries	2016/17			2017/18		
	Darwin	Alice	Total	Darwin	Alice	Total
Being Assaulted By A Person Or Persons	34	18	52	18	16	34
Being Hit By a Person - Accidental	1		1			
Being Hit By Falling Objects	1		1	1		1
Being Hit By Moving Object	1		1	4		4
Contact with biological factor (HUMAN)	12	3	15	2		2
Exposure To Occupational Violence	9		9	5		5
Falls From A Height	3		3	1		1
Falls On The Same Level		1	1	4	1	5
Hitting Moving Objects				1		1
Hitting Stationary Objects				3		3
Insect & Spider Bites & Stings				1		1
Muscular stress	1		1	3		3
Muscular Stress No Obj.Handled				5		5
Repetitive Movement				1		1
Single Contact With Chemical / Substance	1		1	1		1
Work-related Harassment/Bullying	1		1			
Unspec. Mechanisms Of Injury				1		1
Total	64	22	86	51	17	68