

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Territory Families:

**Youth Outreach Re-engagement Team (YORET)**

**1. What is the current role of the Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Team (YORET)**

**ANSWER:**

The Youth Outreach and Re-engagement service delivers a range of youth focused outreach, supports and activities designed to engage young people aged 10 – 17 years who display behaviours that indicate they may be at risk of entering or re-entering the Youth Justice system.

Senior Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers (Community Youth Justice Officers) deliver statutory case management and supervision to youth on Court ordered supervision.

Youth Outreach workers in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Groote Eylandt, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek deliver:

- proactive youth outreach and support; and
- collaborative case-management for young people and their families to address the young person's reasons for offending.

A clearly articulated referral, screening, prioritisation and assessment process is utilised.

Case management:

- is strengths-based and trauma informed;
- is a collaboration between Youth Outreach and other Government Agencies and non-government service providers;
- engages with the young person and their family to encourage shared decision making and responsibility;
- is responsive to the cultural background of the young person, and their relationships with family and the community to which they belong; and
- takes into consideration a young person's criminogenic risk/needs assessments, with interventions designed according to criminogenic needs.

YORET chairs the Crossover Working Groups which identify and work with families experiencing behavioral challenges with their young people and is comprised of Territory Families, Northern Territory Police, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of the Chief Minister and the Department of Attorney-General and Justice.

Regular multi-Agency meetings are held to support young people engaged in the Youth Justice system. These include the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, the NT Legal Aid Commission, Anglicare, Northern Territory Police, Saltbush Social Enterprises, Danila Dilba, Red Cross and Mission Australia in an effort to ensure there is appropriately shared information that enables the best possible service delivery, particularly in the throughcare environment.

Darwin and Palmerston YORET are responsible for the service to remote Courts in Borroloola, Wadeye, Maningrida, Tiwi Islands, Jabiru and Gunbalanya. Alice Springs YORET are responsible for the service to remote Courts in Yuendumu, Papunya, Hermannsburg, Ti Tree, and Yulara.

**2. What is the current annual budget for the YORET in Alice Springs?**

**ANSWER:**

\$2.637 million.

**3. How many staff are employed by the YORET in Alice Springs?**

**ANSWER:**

There are 18 FTE in the Southern Region YORET.

**4. How many young people have made contact with the YORET in the past 12 months to 1 December 2018?**

**ANSWER:**

Casual contact with young people is not recorded, only case management can be reported on.

As at 21 December 2018, YORETs have 359 active cases. Senior YOREOs are supporting 182 youth on statutory conditional liberty orders.

**5. Please provide a breakdown of services provided to these youth.**

**ANSWER:**

Refer to Answer to Question 1.

**6. What hours do the YORET officers work?**

**ANSWER:**

Shift hours vary depending on time of year. For example, during school terms very late shifts on Friday evenings and weekends are used as required, depending on activity and need. Local context is taken into account and YOREO rostering is amended accordingly in order to provide the best possible service and value for money.

Standard hours are 8:00 am to 4:21 pm. However shifts may begin later, e.g. 10:00 am and finish later e.g. 6:21 pm or even later. In Alice Springs during summer, night shifts finish at 11:30 pm, five to seven days a week. Currently a trial is being undertaken in Alice Springs over the summer school holiday period in collaboration with other agencies of an extended late night roster from 11.00pm to 3.00am.

**7. What night time youth outreach services do the YORET provide?**

**8. Are the YORET working with kids on the streets of Alice Springs at night?**

**If so, provide details of what that work consists of.**

**ANSWER TO BOTH 7 AND 8:**

The Alice Springs YORET works five to seven nights a week throughout the school holiday period. The YOREOs are operational up to 11:30 pm and provide targeted outreach services to disengaged young people within the central business district and to encourage participation in the school holiday programs and activities. For a trial period the time has recently been extended to 3.00am until the end of the school holidays to engage with kids, who are out very late, and to get them to go home.

After hours services to young people are coordinated through the Northern Territory Police Operation Cradle which commenced on 11 December 2018, and also through the Interagency Case Management Group (ICMG) which focuses on 30 identified high risk young people and their families.

YOREOs attend the Northern Territory Police station at the beginning of the shift.

During the shift the YORET undertake the following activities in Alice Springs:

- Foot Patrols within the CBD
- Transport Patrol:
  - CBD and surrounding areas;
  - other areas as required
- Engagement with young people in services and activities run by other organisations
  - Gap Youth Centre;
  - Brown Street – Tangentyere;
  - The Meeting Place – Uniting Church; and
  - Any activities that may be occurring in town such as school holiday programs
- Engagement with youth staying at the Saltbush Bail Supported Accommodation

Activities in other regions are variations of the above depending on local needs.

Specifically, YORET undertakes the following work with young people on the streets of Alice Springs at night:

- Work with existing YORET clients and their families, to re-iterate case plans, safety plans in the after-hours space;
- Facilitate contact with responsible adults when a young person is at risk or a young person doesn't feel safe;
- Encourage young people on Court orders to comply with conditions of their orders such as curfews;
- Promote YORET service to those deemed at medium/high risk of entering the youth justice system or already in the youth justice system.;
- Talking/exploring about risk-taking behaviours and safe options for young people, safety planning with young people and their responsible adult/s;
- Advising of risk / danger issues within the area and encouraging young people to get home safely including encouraging young people to utilise Tangentyere Youth Patrol service;
- Promoting upcoming youth activities;
- Making referrals on behalf of young people not involved with YORET but are assessed as needing support e.g. Gap Reconnect, Bushmob, CAAC Youth Outreach Service, MiFANT, ADSCA or other follow up referrals that need to be done by day shift;
- Assisting and supporting young people to access Police, legal services or medical treatment if needed; and
- If a young person is in the care of the Chief Executive Officer, ensure any interactions had with that young person are communicated to their Child Protection case worker.

**9. What is the percentage breakdown of work of the YORET between case management of youth on remand, youth in detention and outreach work with youth on the streets**

**ANSWER:**

Casual contact with youth when undertaking outreach activities is not recorded, only case management can be reported on.

As at 21 December 2018, YORET has 359 active cases. Senior YOREOs are supporting 182 youth on statutory conditional liberty orders. In other words 47 percent of the active cases managed by the YORET are statutory; the remaining 53 percent are 'voluntary' (i.e. not mandated) case management undertaken by the Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers.