

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Services:

Sobering Up Shelter and Alcohol Rehabilitation

1. Is there a policy for Northern Territory Police to follow when deciding whether a person that otherwise meets the criteria of section 128 of the *Police Administration Act 2017* is to be taken into protective custody or, in the alternative, taken to a sobering up shelter?
2. Are persons transported to a sobering up shelter considered to be taken into protective custody under section 128 of the *Police Administration Act* for purposes of police making a Banned Drinker Order under section 10 of the *Alcohol Harm Reduction Act 2017*?
3. In the past 12 months, how many persons have been transported to a sobering up shelter by Northern Territory Police?
4. How many on-duty hours have been taken by Northern Territory Police accompanying persons to a sobering up shelter?
5. When a person is transported by Northern Territory Police to a sobering up shelter, what information is collected on that person by police?
6. What, if any, information is collected on behalf of the Northern Territory Government on persons transported by police to a sobering up shelter?
7. What information, if any, is shared by the non-government operators of sobering up shelters with the Northern Territory Police?
8. How many times in the past 12 months have Northern Territory Police been called to respond to incidents occurring at a sobering up shelter or within 500 metres of a sobering up shelter?

ANSWERS:

1. Yes, Custody and transport.
2. People are taken into custody under s128 of the *Police Administration Act*. But at the sobering up shelter they are then transferred to the care of a responsible person under s131 of the Act. The onus is on an authorised person (in this instance, a sobering up shelter team leader) to make a referral of their client to the Registrar.
3. This information should be sourced from Department of Health (DoH) as the principal recorder and collector of this data.
4. There is no metric held by NT Police for this information that goes into this level of detail.
5. In accordance with s128(A) of the *Police Administration Act*, personal identifying information (such as name and date of birth) is recorded by members transporting a person to a sobering up shelter.
6. This information should be sourced from DoH as the agency responsible for managing the provision of sobering up services via contractual arrangements with non-Government organisations. NT Police do not capture this data.
7. In Alice Springs the Senior Sergeant Custody Manager meets once every two months with the Drug and Alcohol Services Australia (DSA) to discuss both Work Health and Safety Protective Custody and DSA statistics.

In Tennant Creek, the Senior Sergeant Officer in Charge is in ongoing discussions with the Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group Manager to coordinate regular stakeholder meetings to review processes and client flow through and other issues at the sobering up shelter.

In Katherine, the OIC has a monthly meeting with Mission Australia to discuss issues including client processing and strategies.

In Darwin, the Senior Sergeant Custody Manager meets monthly with the Operations Manager of Mission Australia to discuss operations and statistics at the Darwin Sobering Up Shelter.

8. NT Police data is not geo-coded to enable this level of analysis.