

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families:

Restorative Justice

1. **Please advise region by region, how many restorative conferences for youths have happened in remote areas?**

Conferences convened under sections 39 and 64 of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* are generally coordinated and convened by the Northern Territory Police Youth Diversion Unit. Territory Families can provide statistics on the conferences convened where its service providers are involved.

In 2018-19, a total of 318 conferences have been convened. Table 1 below outlines the youth justice conferences held by region.

Table 1 – Restorative Youth Justice Conferences by Territory Families Regions

Region	Total 2018-19
Arafura/Northern Remote	69
East Arnhem (inc Groote Eylandt)	55
Barkly	43
Big Rivers	9
Alice Springs Remote/Southern Region	69
Alice Springs (Urban)	11
Greater Darwin	62
TOTAL	318

2. **How many local Aboriginal people are employed as part of these projects?**

For Youth Diversion Services funded to 31 December 2019, 30 per cent are Aboriginal Controlled Organisations and all Youth Diversion program providers employ Aboriginal staff.

3. Does this use an Aboriginal mediation approach?

Territory Families is committed to delivering services in a manner that is respectful of local culture and culturally safe, as demonstrated by our recently published Cultural Security Framework.

In the Youth Justice context, Territory Families is building strong partnerships with organisations that are Aboriginal led or committed to the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory principles, to deliver youth diversion services including case management and support for restorative justice conferencing.

Territory Families has recently announced a new partnership with the Community Justice Centre (CJC), which has a depth of experience in delivering culturally appropriate mediation, conferencing and dispute resolution amongst Aboriginal people in Aboriginal communities.

Stage one of this new partnership will see the CJC delivering restorative conferencing in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

Stage two will involve Territory Families and CJC jointly selecting three remote communities across the Northern Territory to pilot expanded delivery of restorative conferences into remote locations.

This will provide the opportunity for local Aboriginal people to be trained and employed as youth justice conference convenors.