

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Minister for Correctional Services:

Corrections

Government agencies are currently preparing data for verification and inclusion in end of year financial statements. Once approved by Accountable Officers and audits have been completed, end of year financial data will be available in agency Annual Reports in accordance with the Public Sector Employment and Management Act and the Financial Management Act.

Financial information included in this WQON is to 31 March 2014 and is comparable with any financial information that was tabled during the Estimates Committee Hearings.

1. How many medical and nursing FTE positions are at correctional institutions in the NT and where?

Not the Department of Correctional Services (NTDCS).

2. What hours do the medical and nursing staff work at each of the correctional facilities in the NT?

Not NTDCS.

3. What is the cost to the taxpayer of the medical and nursing staff for the NT's correctional institutes per prisoner:

a) under 18

b) over 18?

Not NTDCS.

4. What is the overtime cost/extra loading for:

a) medical and nursing staff

The costs of overtime or extra loading for medical and nursing staff is a question for the Department of Health.

b) corrections officers attending medical facilities?

The overtime costs/extra loading costs for correctional officers providing escorts for prisoners attending a medical or hospital appointment (including prisoners attending the Joan Ridley Unit and interstate medical appointment/transfers) from 30 July 2014 to 31 March 2014 is as outlined in the below table:

Location	2012-2013 \$	2013-2014 As at 31 March 2014 \$
Darwin Correctional Centre	1,301,630	1,368,817
Alice Springs Correctional Centre	617,499	623,356

5. What is the annual turnover of medical and nursing staff in correctional institutions in the NT?

Not NTDCS.

6. What is the total number of days and nights spent at Territory hospitals by Territory inmates in the last 12 months?

For the period 1 July 2013 to 31 March 2014 there were:

- 317 hospital bed nights (for 92 prisoners) for Alice Springs Correctional Centre; and
- 818 hospital bed nights (for 129 prisoners) for Darwin Correctional Centre.

7. What is the cost to the Department of Justice for inmate security in hospitals?

The figures relates specifically to prisoner escorts where a prisoner has been admitted to hospital and may remain there for a day or several days until the medical treatment has been completed. This figure for the Darwin Correctional Centre also includes the Joan Riddley Unit.

Location	2013-2014 As at 31 March 2014
Darwin Correctional Centre	1,273,236
Alice Springs Correctional Centre	918,655

8. What percentage of these hospital stay/admission days could have been avoided with a 24-hour clinical presence within the prison?

Not NTDCS.

9. Would there be an overall cost saving to taxpayers with 24-hour clinical presence within the prison?

Not NTDCS.

10. How many evacuations to hospital have occurred within business hours/after hours and what was the mode and cost:

- Department of Justice vehicles
- ambulance
- other?

For the period 1 July 2013 to 31 March 2014, there were the following number of escorts to medical facilities.

Number of Escorts	ASCC	DCC	BWC	TOTAL
Business Hours	886	1,119	85	2,090
After Hours Escorts	138	167	0	305
Total	1,024	1,286	85	2,395

Mode of Transport	ASCC	DCC	BWC	TOTAL
Departmental Vehicles	970	1,184	85	2,239
Ambulance	54	102	0	156
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	1,024	1,286	85	2,395

Cost of Vehicle Escorts	ASCC	DCC	BWC	TOTAL
Departmental Vehicles	\$80,320	\$63,940	\$1,530	\$145,790
Ambulance	\$27,850	\$51,670	\$0	\$79,520
Total	\$108,170	\$115,610	\$1,530	\$225,310

Costs are transport costs and do not include costs for officers.

Costs for departmental vehicles are cost per km for return trip to hospital and back.

Ambulance costs are the invoiced costs for despatch of ambulance.

11. What is the current turnover of inmates, that is, admissions and discharges per week?

For the period 1 July 2013 to 31 March 2014 there were:

- 3,481 admissions for Darwin Correctional Centre and 3,397 discharges;
- 2,810 admissions for Alice Springs Correctional Centre and 2,778 discharges;
- 225 prisoners were transferred into Barkly Work Camp; 73 transferred out and there were 137 discharges for Barkly Work Camp.

The average weekly turnover for prisoner for the period 1 July 2013 to 31 March 2014 is as follows.

Centre	Admissions	Discharges
Alice Springs Correctional Centre	78	77
Darwin Correctional Centre	97	94
Barkly Work Camp ¹	0	4
Total	175	175

¹ Barkly Work Camp is not a reception prison. Prisoners are received into Darwin or Alice and transferred to the Barkly Work Camp.

12. What is the burden of disease for the current prison cohort?

Not NTDCS.

13. How many prison entrants are treated for alcohol withdrawal?

Not NTDCS.

14. Can you outline incarceration forecasts across all correctional facilities for the next three years?

The prisoner projections model is based on 24 months of historical monthly daily average data.

The projections incorporate a linear growth factor, a seasonal variation factor and an estimate of the uncertainty of the projection.

A prisoner projection chart as at the end of March 2014 is also attached.

	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016
Central Australia ¹	743	807	871
Top End ²	984	1080	1177

¹ Central Australia includes Alice Springs Correctional Centre and Barkly Work Camp

² Top End includes Darwin Correctional Centre and Dajjala Work Camp Nhulunbuy

15. Provide a breakdown of programs and service delivery aimed at preventing young people entering the justice system, including committed funding for each program across the forward estimates.

The Youth Diversion Grants Program 2013-14 / 2014-15 has provided funding to the following 10 organisations for the annual amounts listed:

Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra	\$160,000
Tiwi Islands Shire Council	\$220,000
Relationships Australia	\$410,000
(additional funding for remote diversion 2013-2014 only)	\$ 41,210
Barkly Youth Services	\$278,459
YMCA Katherine	\$199,260
Roper Gulf Shire Council	\$215,000
YWCA Darwin	\$538,156
Anglicare	\$135,000
East Arnhem Shire Council	\$135,000
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Womens Council	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$2,457,085

These grants allow the organisations to provide service focus on:

- Diversion assessment
- Family and victim/offender conferences
- Early intervention
- Crime prevention
- Fostering behavioral changes
- Re-engaging youth in schooling, employment and /or training
- Improving health and wellbeing.

16. Two million dollars has been allocated for early intervention and residential boot camps. Provide a breakdown of the funding, including the allocation for boot camps, their capacity and location.

80 young people assessed as a risk of entering the youth justice system will participate in an early intervention youth boot camp program.

There will be eight programs in 2014-15 with each being of 14 weeks duration. Each program encompasses a wilderness camp of ten days. Four camps (10 children per camp) will be held at Walkabout Bore in the Northern Territory and four will be held in Yankannina Station in South Australia.

Tangentyere Council is the provider for the Walkabout Bore Camp and Operation Flinders will provide the camps in Yankannina Station.

It is anticipated the number of camps will increase to ten per year with a total of 100 participants as of 2015-16, noting that camps will only run in the dry season. Negotiations are finalising for Operation Flinders to run their camps in the Northern Territory as of 2015.

On completing the camp component each participant will receive up to 12 weeks of case management which will incorporate working with the young person's family. The location for this will be in the young person's community.

Minimal expenditure against the allocated budget for youth boot camps is due to activity between 1 July 2013 and 31 March 2014 limited to the trialling of two pilot programs at the above locations.

A total of 18 young people participated in the pilot programs – 10 at Operation Flinders and 8 at Walkabout Bore. The pilot programs and following program delivery evaluation were completed in November 2013.

The results of this evaluation informed the future delivery of the programs and the need to ensure programs delivered on stated outcomes for the long term.

To this end a strong framework for the program and its evaluation has been developed by external consultants, with recognized expertise in these types of intervention programs, for each provider. Program guidelines were finalised in April 2014 following circulation to the NGO sector for comment.

A boot camp program for sentenced youth is still under development.

Cost of programs	\$1M
Operational costs of the program	\$0.12M

17. Can you provide the service provision details of the youth supervision model, including locations in which it will be operational and who provides the supervision?

Probation and parole officers (PPO) are required to perform a variety of statutory functions in relation to the supervision of youth offenders in the community. They provide pre and post sentencing advice to the Youth Justice, Magistrates, Supreme Courts and the Parole Board regarding the management and compliance of offenders in the community. PPOs gather and analyse relevant information for the submission of reports to the Courts and the Parole Board, to assist them in determining whether offenders should be placed on community-based orders or recommended for Parole.

PPOs manage a caseload of adult and juvenile offenders, and are responsible for assessing each offender's risks and needs in order to develop individual plans designed to address their offending behaviour. PPOs work directly with young offenders, but may also involve employers, families, significant others, and program service providers when developing goals and strategies to reduce the risk of the person re-offending. Officers monitor an offender's compliance with their Court or Parole Orders and prepare breach documentation for consideration by the Court or Parole Board as required. Compliance checks are also conducted outside normal business hours on behalf of PPOs by other Community Corrections staff who are known as Surveillance Officers.

18. The government has announced the intention to use GPS electronic monitoring devices. When will this occur

- a) under what circumstances?
- b) How many people are anticipated to be ordered to wear them?
- c) Who will monitor the movements of individuals and who will be responsible for breaches?

The contract for the provision of an electronic monitoring solution was awarded in the week commencing 2 June 2014. The implementation is planned to commence in the second half of 2014.

- a) Electronic monitoring will be used when the Courts and Parole Board apply conditions that restrict the movements of offenders, and require close monitoring, such as curfews and residential conditions. Additionally the Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services will have the ability to manage some prisoners using electronic monitoring technology.
- b) It is anticipated that in the first year there will be approximately 120 offenders and prisoners subject to some form of electronic monitoring.
- c) Probation and Parole Officers and Custodial Officers will be responsible for monitoring offenders and reporting any breaches to the appropriate authority.

19. Is there a budget allocation for the use of GPS electronic monitoring devices in the 2014-15 budget? If so, how much?

GPS is one form of electronic monitoring technology but the overall budget for electronic monitoring in 2014/15 is \$1.052 million.

20. Regarding the Nhulunbuy regional work camp, can you provide details on what modifications are being made to make the rehabilitation centre suitable for housing prisoners?

- a) What are the associated costs?
- b) How many prisoners are currently being employed in local businesses, and
- c) which businesses?

The General Manager of Custodial Operations and Director of Major Projects and Infrastructure visited Nhulunbuy in June 2014 to ascertain what modifications are required to make the rehabilitation centre suitable to house prisoners. At this stage there have been no defined allocated costs.

As at 31 March 2014 there are 15 prisoners from the Datjala Work Camp in paid employment.

The prisoners are currently employed with the following Nhulunbuy businesses:

Zenco	2
Arnhem Pest Control	3
Gumatj Corporation	2
Delta Reef	2
Peninsula Bakery	3
TyrePower	2

21. Can you provide the budget for community work crews for the last three financial years and the budget for 2014-15?

Community Work Crews	2011-12 \$000	2012-13 \$000	2013-14 \$000	2014-15 \$000
Employee Expenses ¹	0	279	276	276
Purchases of Goods and Services ²	25	88	88	88
Capital Purchases (Trailer/Fitout) ²	40	40		
Total Budget	65	407	364	364

1. Personnel budget based on 2.5 T6 FTE in 2012-13 and three T4 FTE in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

2. Funding as originally allocated in the 'A new Era in Corrections' Cabinet Decision.

22. Can you outline the funding for the parole board for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the budget for 2014-15?

The funding for the Parole Board is as follows:

- 2011-12 was \$224,000;
- 2012-13 was \$615,000;
- 2013-14 is \$498,000.

The budget for the Parole Board for 2014-15 is \$520,000.
