

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Josh Burgoyne to the Minister for Territory Families:

Back on Track Program

Please provide the following data for the 12 months to 30 September 2023:

1. What was the total expenditure on the Back on Track Program?

ANSWER:

\$7.3 Million.

2. What was the total expenditure on the Back on Track Program since 2017?

ANSWER:

Approximately \$28 million.

3. Please provide a list of the Back on Track program service providers across the NT.

ANSWER:

Seven service providers deliver the Back on Track alternative sentencing and youth diversion programs across the Northern Territory:

- Central Australian Congress Aboriginal Corporation;
- Saltbush Social Enterprises;
- Australian Childhood Foundation;
- Anglicare NT;
- 54 Reasons;
- First Step Development Enterprises;
- Department of Education.

The service providers include a mix of highly qualified Aboriginal organisations, health providers, Registered Training Organisations, social services and private enterprises.

- 4. How many youths were referred to the Back on Track Program who were:**
- a. Less than 12 years old at the time of referral? Of these, how many commenced the program and how many completed it?**
 - b. 12 years or older at the time of referral? Of these, how many commenced the program and how many completed it?**

ANSWER:

The completion of the program is subject to a number of factors and can be impacted, for example, if a young person:

- commences with another service provider;
- relocates with their family;
- remains in the Back on Track Program for a number of years with no recorded completion;
- is non-compliant with all case goals/requirements of the program; or re-offends.

Referrals, commencements and completions are all impacted by a number of factors, as outlined above. Therefore only referrals are provided.

- a. 33 under the age of 12 have been referred to the Program since commencement in September 2019.
- b. 367 young people over the age of 12 have been referred to the Program since commencement in September 2019.

- 5. Of the youths who participated in the Back on Track Program who were less than 12 years old at the time of commencement, how many were referred by:**

- a. Police**
- b. Parent/guardian**
- c. Other family member**
- d. Government agency**
- e. Non-government agency**
- f. Police**
- g. Court**
- h. School**
- i. Other**

ANSWER:

Northern Territory Police, Government and non-Government agencies can refer young people to the program. Families can also refer young people.

- 6. Of the youths who participated in the Back on Track Program who were 12 years or older at the time of commencement, how many were referred by:**
- a. Police**
 - b. Parent/guardian**
 - c. Other family member**
 - d. Government agency**
 - e. Non-government agency**
 - f. Police**
 - g. Court**
 - h. School**
 - i. Other**

ANSWER:

Northern Territory Police, Government and non-Government agencies can refer young people to the program. Families can also refer young people.

- 7. Of the youths who participated in the Back on Track Program who were less than 12 years old at the time of commencement, how many subsequently were arrested, offended or reoffended?**

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

- 8. Of the youths who participated in the Back on Track Program who were 12 years or older at the time of commencement, how many subsequently were arrested, offended or reoffended?**

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

- 9. What number of children aged 8-17 are currently identified as at risk in Alice Springs and would be referred to the Back on Track program if positions were available?**

ANSWER:

Any young person at risk of offending or participating in anti-social behaviour may be referred to the Back on Track program at any time.

10. What number of children are currently identified as high risk in Alice Springs?

ANSWER:

As the number is low, disclosing the exact number could potentially identify individuals and, therefore, cannot be provided.

11. How many children that have been undertaking the Back on Track program in the last 12 months have ended up in detention?

ANSWER:

The Minister for Police is the responsible for this data.

12. What number of children that are referred to the Back on Track program are assessed in Darwin vs Alice Springs?

ANSWER:

All young people referred and accepted into the Back on Track Program undertake the assessment process.

Since the program commenced in September 2019:

- 187 young people have been referred to the Back on Track program in Darwin, 146 were assessed. 41 are awaiting assessment.
- 110 young people have been referred to the Back on Track program in Alice Springs, 80 were assessed. 30 are awaiting assessment.