



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 323

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Children and Families, Hon Robyn Cahill OAM
MLA:

Circuit Breaker Program

1. How does the Department measure the efficacy of the Circuit Breaker program?
 - a. Please provide a breakdown of that data.
2. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 reports Circuit Breaker cases commenced at 380 for 2025–26 against a target of 200, attributing the variation to “strong demand and program uptake following implementation in December 2025, which exceeded initial projections”, and sets a 2026–27 target of 300.
 - a. The 2026–27 target of 300 is below the 380 cases commenced in 2025–26, in a program that operated for part of that year only. Is a reduction in cases commenced intended and, if so, why?
 - b. What funding is allocated to Circuit Breaker in 2026–27, and does it assume 300 cases or 380?
 - c. How many cases were commenced in each month since December 2025?
 - d. What is the maximum number of cases the program can carry at its 2026–27 funding, and how many were open at 30 June 2026?
3. How many young people involved in Circuit Breaker have committed offences while in the program?
4. How many young people have been placed in youth detention while involved with the program?
5. How many young people have been removed from their family over domestic violence concerns while involved in the program?
6. For each of the preceding three questions, is that outcome recorded against a young person's participation in the Circuit Breaker program?

- a. If it is, in which system, and please provide the figures.
 - b. If it is not, how does the Department assess whether participation changes any of those outcomes?
7. Circuit Breaker is funded from the domestic and family violence funding stream. On what basis is that classification justified, and can a completed evaluation of the program be tabled?
 - a. What has the Circuit Breaker program cost to date?
8. How much funding is allocated to Circuit Breaker in 2025–26 and 2026–27, broken down by funding stream?
 - a. What amount and proportion is drawn from domestic, family and sexual violence funding?
9. Is Circuit Breaker classified as a specialist DFSV program, a child protection program, a youth justice program, or a Family Responsibility Agreement program?
 - a. If it is classified as a specialist DFSV response, what criteria does the Department rely on, and can the program logic, outcomes framework and any evaluation supporting that classification be tabled?
10. Which outcomes under the DFSV strategy does Circuit Breaker contribute to, and how?
 - a. What data shows how Circuit Breaker directly contributes to the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence?
11. How is victim-survivor safety made central to Circuit Breaker procedures?
 - a. Does Circuit Breaker complete DFSV risk assessments and safety plans with victim-survivors and children? If so, how many were completed in 2025–26?
12. How does the Department define success in the Circuit Breaker program, and how is a case classified if the family:
 - a. declined engagement;
 - b. did not receive practical support;
 - c. did not complete a Family Responsibility Agreement; or
 - d. was only referred to another service?

13. Does the Department count a Circuit Breaker case as successful where the case is closed, even if the family declined engagement, did not receive practical support, did not complete a Family Responsibility Agreement, or was only referred to another service?
14. How many families were referred to Circuit Breaker in 2025–26?
15. How many families successfully completed the program in 2025–26?
16. How many families have fully completed Family Responsibility Agreements since the program's inception?
17. How many families completed a Family Responsibility Agreement and received the practical supports required to comply with it?
 - a. Where an agreement required attendance at a domestic violence program, how many families were referred to an appropriate program, supported with transport or other practical barriers, and recorded as completing that requirement?
18. How many children connected to Circuit Breaker families were referred to a child-specific DFSV service?
19. How many Circuit Breaker families were referred to specialist DFSV services?
 - a. Please list the specific services, by region, to which families were referred.
 - b. Of those referrals, how many were accepted and resulted in the person actually receiving support?
 - c. Where a figure for an individual region, service or category is too small to report, please provide the Territory-wide total.
20. How many people using violence were referred to a specialist behaviour change, men's healing or DFSV intervention program?
21. How many Circuit Breaker staff are employed in specialist DFSV roles?
 - a. What specialist DFSV qualifications, training or experience are required for Circuit Breaker staff?