

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

Northern Territory Correctional Service, Correctional Industries and Sentenced to a Job

1. Please provide evidence that the two Northern Territory Prisons (Alice Springs and Darwin) have the capacity to take prisoners from South Australia?

During a recent visit to the Northern Territory, the South Australian Minister for Correctional Services, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC, raised the issue of prisoner numbers in South Australia and broached the possibility of the Northern Territory taking South Australian prisoners.

The current design and operating capacity for Northern Territory correctional centres and work camps are as follows:

Centre	Design Capacity	Operating Capacity
Darwin Correctional Centre	1,048	1,048
Alice Springs Correctional Centre	500	650
Barkly Work Camp	74	74
Datjala Work Camp	50	50
Totals	1,672	1,822

South Australia may seek to transfer prisoners normally residing in the NPY Lands (a significant area of the Cross Borders Region) to the Alice Springs Correctional Centre (ASCC) during SA Correctional Services peak occupancy periods. Northern Territory Correctional Services would have capacity to accept South Australian prisoners to ASCC, based on the operational capacity of the prison (650), during periods of low occupancy.

The occupancy period will be a relevant consideration in determining the Territory's capacity to take prisoners from South Australia.

2. What is the exact capacity as of 1 June 2017 for our prisons to take on South Australian prisoners?

On 1 June 2017, there were 533 prisoners held at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre (ASCC). ASCC currently operates a staffing model to 600 prisoners, albeit the maximum operational capacity is 650. Feasibly ASCC could have housed 67 prisoners for SA on that date without significant changes to operating structures, however actual number projections would require a further assessment of the prisoner gender and security classification, as well as the capacity within those sectors of the prison to house a multi-classification prisoner cohort.

3. How much does it cost to detain a person in a Northern Territory Prison per day?

The total cost per prisoner per day in 2015-16 as reported in the Report on Government Services is \$315.54 including capital costs.

The total cost per prisoner per day in 2015-16, excluding capital expenditure, is \$198.86.

4. How much would the Northern Territory Corrections Service charge the South Australian Government to take prisoners into a Northern Territory Prison?

Northern Territory Correctional Services would need to assess the costs associated with infrastructure, personnel and operational impacts for any increase in prisoner numbers.

5. How many prisoners could the Northern Territory Prisons accept from South Australia as of 1 June 2017?

Refer to Question 1.

6. As of the 1 June 2017 how many people are incarcerated at the Alice Springs prison?

As at 1 June 2017, 538 prisoners were incarcerated at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre.

7. As of the 1 June 2017 how many people are incarcerated at the Darwin prison?

As at 1 June 2017, 976 prisoners were incarcerated at the Darwin Correctional Centre.

8. What is full capacity at the Alice Springs Adult Prison? What is the maximum number of prisoners the Alice Springs Prison can house?

The Alice Springs Correctional Centre has a design capacity of 500 and an operating capacity of 650.

9. What is full capacity at the Darwin Adult Prison? What is the maximum number of prisoners the Darwin Prison can house?

The Darwin Correctional Centre has a design capacity of 1048, excluding the Complex Behaviour Unit.

10. With the extra burden placed on Northern Territory Prisons by accepting South Australia prisoners, how will the Prisons cope with the extra demand?

Refer to Question 1.

There has been no formal discussion to date with South Australia Corrections regarding this matter. Pursuant to the Cross Border Justice Scheme, the Territory receives prisoners from South Australia and Western Australia into Alice Springs Correctional Centre. However, it should be noted that small numbers of prisoners have been received and this has not had any impact on prison operations.

11. Provide details regarding Northern Territory Correctional Industries:

- (a) How many contracts does the Northern Territory Correctional Industries have with companies?

Northern Territory Correctional Industries (NTCI) currently maintains ongoing contracts with five (5) companies. NTCI also provides various services to four (4) Northern Territory Government agencies on a regular basis. In addition, NTCI works with local businesses on an 'as required' basis, to add capacity or manufacture import replacements. All activities undertaken by NTCI are compliant with the Northern Territory Government's Buy Local plan and are transparent with clear visibility and approval from the Correctional Industries Advisory Councils in both Alice Springs and Darwin.

- (b) Who the contracts are with?

- Move Yourself;
- Silvan Australia;
- Temporary Fence Hire Darwin;
- MNH Sustainable Cabin Services; and
- Home Timber and Hardware, Alice Springs.

- (c) What products or services do these companies provide?

- Trailer rental;
- Garden and agricultural products;
- Temporary fence panels;
- Services to airlines; and

- General hardware and building supplies.

(d) Are Correctional Industries currently providing any goods or services that are provided by companies in the Northern Territory?

Yes. NTCI manufactures bread and baked products, meals, laundry services including repairs, vending machine operations, grounds maintenance, Fleet maintenance, building maintenance, cleaning and bedding manufacture. These services are not sold and are directed to maintaining correctional centre operations. Number plates, plus steel, timber and concrete products are provided on a commercial basis.

NTCI, through community service work parties, provides 'bump in, bump out' services to major NT events and general clean up/maintenance around our towns. NTCI also provides yard maintenance to local pensioners and disabled members of our community.

NTCI undertakes these activities for many reasons, including the upskilling of prisoners. Other reasons for the employment of prisoners in NTCI operations include:

- A reduction in prisoner idleness.
- Teaches a work ethic.
- Provides substantial savings to the operating budget of correctional centres.
- NTCI staff are uniquely placed within the correctional centres to be able to have the greatest positive effect on a prisoner's life and they are doing so.

All activities undertaken by NTCI are compliant with the Northern Territory Government's Buy Local plan and are transparent with clear visibility and approval from the Correctional Industries Advisory councils in both Alice Springs and Darwin.

(e) Exactly what are the goods and services currently being produced and provided by Correctional Industries?

NTCI manufactures bread and baked products, meals, laundry services including repairs, vending machine operations, grounds maintenance, Fleet maintenance, building maintenance, cleaning and bedding manufacture. These services are not sold and are directed to maintaining correctional centre operations. Number plates, plus steel, timber and concrete products are provided on a commercial basis.

NTCI, through community service work parties, provides 'bump in, bump out' services to major Northern Territory events and general clean up/maintenance around our towns. NTCI also provides yard maintenance services to local pensioners and disabled members of our community at no charge.

Prisoners are gaining the most benefit through their employment in NTCI operations, learning valuable skills to assist them in gaining employment upon release.

Importantly, NTCI provides vocational training to all prisoners through its partnership with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Vocational training provides accredited qualifications to prisoners which are recognised by employers and can lead to employment upon release.

- (f) Please give detail of each product and service and the volume produced by Northern Territory Correctional Industries in 2015/16?

NTCI currently manufactures a broad range of products for internal and external customers. These products are as diverse as the NTCI industry operations and range from timber chopping boards to camel and kangaroo pies, to hay feeders for the live export industry and bespoke trophies and marketing products.

NTCI is currently working through the planning and implementation of PRONTO business software which, once complete, will include detailed inventory and sales information.

- (g) Exactly where and to whom are these goods and services sold?

NTCI operates show stands at each major regional show. Mainly small items are sold at these shows. Records are not maintained of individual purchasers at these show stands.

Cattle feeding and handling products are generally sold through local resellers such as Territory Rural, Wesfarmers and Elders. NTCI does not operate in the retail sector. Rather, NTCI works with, and supports, local businesses through the purchase of raw materials and the provision of extra capacity.

In addition, staff and the family members of prisoners have purchased products produced by NTCI. For the past several years, emails have been sent to all Departmental staff in the lead up to Christmas inviting them to order personalised number plates from the Alice Springs Correctional Centre industry area. More recently, staff have been able to purchase products from other industry areas (for example, prints, mugs and book marks) paying the same price as anyone from the general public would pay. Payment is either through salary deduction or credit card/cash. This money is deposited with the Receiver of Territory Monies. There is also a register of staff purchases maintained, as well as a Staff Purchasing Policy which was approved by the Professional Standards Unit.

Much of the work carried out by NTCI is to sustain correctional centre operations, such as bread and baked products, meals, laundry

services including repairs, vending machine operations, grounds maintenance, Fleet maintenance, building maintenance, cleaning and bedding manufacture. These services are not sold. However, NTCI provides many services and products as a community service.

In line with Government procurement policy, wherever possible, purchases made by NTCI are made from local businesses.

- (h) What was the total income of Northern Territory Correctional Industries in 2015/16?

The total income of Northern Territory Correctional Industries in 2015/2016 is \$4,169,263.00.

- (i) What were the total expenses of Northern Territory Correctional Industries in 2015/16?

The total expenditure for Northern Territory Correctional Industries in 2015/16 is \$21,801,042.40.

- (j) How many prisoners work in Northern Territory Correctional Industries?

As at 14 June, there were 409 prisoners working in NTCI units at Darwin and Alice Springs Correctional Centres.

12. Provide details of the caravan manufacturing business operating in the Darwin Prison. Does this company pay rent, electricity, water, property insurance, workers compensation or other outgoings to operate their business in the Darwin Prison?

There is no caravan manufacturing operation in the Darwin prison. The proponent of this proposed partnership was not able to proceed.

13. Provide details regarding the "Sentenced to a Job" program

- (a) How many prisoners in the Northern Territory were engaged in outside employment in 2015/16?

In 2015/2016, 355 individual prisoners were engaged in outside paid employment and 392 individual prisoners were engaged in outside volunteer employment.

- (b) How many prisoners in the Northern Territory were engaged in outside employment in 1 May 2016 to 31 May 2017?

From 1 May 2016 to 31 May 2017, there were 582 prisoners engaged in outside paid employment and 720 prisoners engaged in outside volunteer employment.

(c) What is the future of Sentenced to a Job?

There are no immediate intentions or plans to change current NTCS policy with regards to the operations of 'Sentence to a Job'

(d) How many businesses in the Northern Territory are employing Northern Territory prisoners in Sentenced to a Job, as of 1 June 2017?

As at 1 June 2017, there were 37 businesses employing prisoners in paid employment and 16 organisations which have prisoners undertaking volunteer employment.
