

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services:

**Local Emergency Responses**

Following Cyclone Lam, there was discussion about offering Aboriginal people in all communities training in Emergency Services responses, so that following a disaster local people could respond to the needs of their own community. Has this happened? Is it part of this Government's agenda?

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**ANSWER:**

No reference was located in debriefing reports on Tropical Cyclone Lam or Nathan with reference to the above. It is probable it was discussed with one of the many Northern Territory (NT) Government (NTG) and non NTG agencies that attended the impacted communities and is currently being actioned by NT Emergency Services (NTES).

The NTES has recently received Federal funding to develop a Remote Community Resilience Program to deliver emergency response training within remote communities to enable localised responses to occur safely and effectively in future emergency incidents.

Formal opportunities for community members to undertake emergency response training exist through the NTES Volunteer Units established across the NT. For example, there are units located in Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Nhulunbuy and Maningrida.

Additional informal opportunities to train community members are being explored by NTES. This may include working with Community Development Programs, local shire staff and ranger groups, many of whom already undertake training in some of the skills required to perform emergency response (i.e. chainsaw training).

The NTES has also been partnering with Red Cross, Bureau of Meteorology and other agencies to deliver basic resilience education to communities across the NT over the last 12 months, and will do so on an expanded scale this year.