

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Correctional Services - Prison and Custodial Services

Ms Carney to Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

(Please note "Berrimah" refers to the Correctional Services facility in the Top End; "Alice Springs" refers to the Correctional Services facility in Alice Springs).

1. What is the average per meal cost of food provided at Berrimah; and Alice Springs?
2. What is the average per meal cost of food provided at each of the watch houses?
3. How many staff are employed at Berrimah and Alice Springs, and please provide details of the levels at which each staff are employed?
4. How many Prison Officers ("officers") are there now working, or rostered to work at Berrimah and Alice Springs?
5. How many officers were working, or rostered to work at the same time last year at Berrimah and Alice Springs?
6. What is the prisoner capacity at Berrimah?
7. What is the prisoner capacity at Alice Springs?
8. What is the *optimum* prisoner to staff ratio in Berrimah and Alice Springs?

9. The Alice Springs jail was built for 400 prisoners, but there has been an agreement between the department and prison officers to ensure it runs safely with 450 prisoners. Please provide details of that agreement, as well as the number of prison officers required if prisoner numbers are between 400 and 450?
10. Does this agreement involve the ability to call in more staff if prisoner numbers exceeded 400? How does it work; how many times have staff had to be called in?
11. Is there a similar agreement in place for Berrimah, and if so, what are the details of such an agreement?
12. How many times have more staff been called into work as a result of overcrowding?
13. How many times has Alice Springs operated where there have been over 400 prisoners and not enough staff?
14. How many times has Berrimah operated where there has been prisoners over the Berrimah capacity level?
15. In Alice Springs, is it the case that there are 138 prison officers currently rostered to work at Alice Springs? If so, is that sufficient for 400 prisoners? If not, what is the number?
16. Isn't it the case that Alice Springs and Berrimah are regularly understaffed?
17. How many shifts have been understaffed in 2006/07 at Berrimah and Alice Springs?

18. How many prison officers retired or resigned from Alice Springs and Berrimah in 2006/07 and how does that compare with the preceding two years?
19. How many new recruits were there in 2006/07 and how does that compare with the preceding two years?
20. How many times has the department advertised for new officers? What form did the advertising take, where did it occur, and what has been the cost?
21. How many times do you expect to advertise for prison officers in 2007/08?
22. How much was spent on all forms of advertising in 2006/07, and how does that compare with the preceding 2 years? Is there an advertising budget? Will there be more ads in 2007/08?
23. Understaffing and other staff issues lead to the Cayer review commissioned a couple of years ago: Have the issues that lead to the review been resolved, and if not, please outline issues that remain unresolved?
24. Please outline what parts of the Cayer review have not been implemented, and provide reasons as to why that is the case?
25. What has happened to the money allocated as a result of the Cayer review?
26. The draft Tungsten report provided to Government in 2004, recommend at page 2 that 'a new high security correctional facility will be needed in Darwin by 2014 and planning should commence for this in the next 3 years': Has planning commenced, and if not, why not?

27. Given the current focus on child abuse: Is it reasonable to expect that more offenders will be charged and sentenced in the future? If so, how will Berrimah and Alice Springs handle significantly more prisoner numbers, and what plans do you have in place to deal with this issue?
28. Is it expected, on the basis of the advice provide to you by the DPP about the increase in the number of files; and the increase in the number of WAS clients: That the prisoner numbers will continue to grow in any event, and that Berrimah and Alice Springs will not have the space to accommodate them.
29. What plans do you have in place to deal with prisoner numbers increasing, based on all of the indications you have available to you?
30. Please provide details about the sex offender programs at Alice Springs and Darwin, and include:
- a. What do they involve?
 - b. How many staff are involved; how is success measured?
 - c. What is the nature of the programs?
 - d. Who runs the programs and what are their qualifications?
 - e. When did they start; when did they finish; and explain the reasons for any cessation in delivery?
 - f. How much did each program cost?
 - g. Provide any other relevant information about the programs.
31. Does the 2007/08 budget include any additional funding for sex offender programs at Berrimah or Alice Springs? If not, why not?
32. Have the sex offender programs which have operated to date been adequate, and do you expect the number of programs to increase?
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