

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Family and Community Services

Community Patrols, Funding

1. Minister currently the Community Patrols and the Sobering-Up shelter in Darwin do not operate on Sundays. Why doesn't your program fund this service seven days a week?

ANSWER

The law and order component of the Community Patrols have been transferred to the Northern Territory Police. They provide a 24 hour service 7 days a week. The social programs component is now conducted by Larrakia nation. This service transfers itinerants to a range of social services and operates from 8am-5pm Monday to Friday in line with the operating hours of the majority of services.

The key determinant of the type of services the Sobering-Up shelter provides is service demand. The majority of take away liquor outlets in Darwin are restricted from trading on Sundays and this directly impacts on the level of public intoxication and subsequently the demand for the service.

The Northern Territory Government has increased funding for Mission Australia to extend the shelter's hours of operation. Based on demand Mission Australia determined to extend the shelter hours from 4.00pm to 2.00 am Monday to Friday rather than open on Sundays.