

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Chief Minister:

Annual Reports

1. How many annual reports are produced by the Northern Territory Government each year?
 2. How many annual reports will be produced by the Northern Territory Government in 2017? Please list all reports?
 3. Will the independents be allocated additional resources to scrutinise the annual reports?
 4. With 30 hours allocated to scrutinise all the annual reports produced by the Northern Territory Government how much time will be allocated to each of those reports?
 5. On average how much time will be available to scrutinise each of these Northern Territory Government annual reports in the new "scrutiny of annual reports" process in 2017?
 6. When exactly will this new "scrutiny of annual reports" take place in 2017?
 7. What rules will government impose on the new "scrutiny of annual reports" process?
 - a. For example, like with the 2017 estimates process will the government enforce its own time frames and restrictions on how each annual report is scrutinised?
 8. Will the Minister responsible for the annual report be required to answer all or most questions in the scrutiny process?
 9. How will you evaluate the effectiveness of this new "scrutiny of annual reports" process?
 10. How will a decision be made as to whether this new "scrutiny of annual reports" process is repeated in 2018 or the Northern Territory parliament returns to the 60 hours of Budget Estimates process that existed before 2017?
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ANSWER:

1. It is dependent on how many Northern Territory Government controlled entities exist at each end of financial year.

These include general government agencies, government business divisions, public non-financial corporations and public financial corporations.

In 2016-17, 98 Annual Reports were tabled by the NT Government.

2. Approximately 91.
3. The Independent Members of the Legislative Assembly have been provided with the additional resources of two Research Officers to assist those MLAs the performance of their Parliamentary duties.

It is anticipated that the Research Officers would also be able to provide assistance to the Independent MLAs in their performance of their scrutiny duties on the Estimates Committee, including scrutiny of Annual Reports.

4. In line with the established Estimates process, the Estimates committee will determine the schedule for Ministers' appearance before the committee.

The examination and reporting on the performance of Agencies as outlined in their Annual Reports is to occur for up to 30 hours.

The maximum total time of the appearance at all Estimates committee hearings of each of the Chief Minister and the Treasurer shall be 8 hours, and for each other Minister and the Speaker shall be 7 hours.

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6. As detailed in the motion passed by the Assembly on 11 May 2017, the examination and reporting on the performance of Agencies as outlined in their Annual Reports is to occur for up to 30 hours on Tuesday, 28 November, Wednesday 29 November and Thursday 30 November 2017.
7. In line with the established Estimates process, the Estimates committee will determine the schedule for Ministers' appearance before the committee.

The maximum total time of the appearance at all hearings of each of the Chief Minister and the Treasurer shall be 8 hours, and for each other Minister and the Speaker shall be 7 hours.

8. In line with the established Estimates process, both Ministers and senior Agency staff will answer questions, to ensure questions are answered as comprehensively and in as timely a manner as possible.

Any questions that are not able to be answered during the committee will be taken on notice and follow the process for any such questions which was detailed in the motion passed by the Assembly on 11 May 2017.

9. All adopted recommendations will be reviewed through the Standing Orders Committee after 12 months of operation.
10. All adopted recommendations will be reviewed through the Standing Orders Committee after 12 months of operation. This body of work will be commenced in early 2018 to allow sufficient time for this review before the establishment of the 2018 Estimates Committee.