

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Housing and Community Development:

**Annual Report – Department of Housing and Community Development**

1. The Chief Executive wished to highlight introducing a Purpose and Direction Strategy. Where is this document available? Will you please provide a copy of this document?
2. The Chief Executive wishes to highlight providing drafting instructions for the Local Government Act and Cemeteries Act. When will these amendments be introduced?
3. On page 10 of the Annual Report you list your stakeholders and partners. Do you not consider tenants in your housing as a stakeholder?
4. On page 10 of the Annual Report you list your stakeholders and partners. Do you not consider council ratepayers to be a stakeholder?
5. What is the reason behind the over 35% reduction in female employees from 2015-16 to 2016-17?
6. What is the reason behind the 7% decline in indigenous employees from 2015-16 to 2016-17?
7. Why was the top position in the department raised from an ECO 5 to an ECO 6 position? Did the applicant bring remote housing delivery experience or any housing experience?
8. How many and what proportion of current executive contract officers within the Department had experience with remote housing delivery before the August election?
9. Can you explain the substantial discrepancies between the numbers of indigenous employees on pages 12 and 15?
10. Can you explain the more than 200% increase in WHS incidents in vehicles, from 12 in 2015-16 to 37 in 2016-17?
11. The report states that as a result of the increase in vehicle incidents, four-wheel drive training was provided for staff. However four wheel drive training was provided in November and December 2016, less than halfway through the reporting time. Can you explain the discrepancy?

12. Why was only one property sold under the Remote Home Ownership program across the Territory? What strategies can be implemented to increase this number?
13. What is the difference between the Aboriginal Jobs Development Funding and the Indigenous Jobs Development Funding?
14. Why is there no mention of department's assistant Ministers (the Assistant Minister for Homelands and the Assistant Minister for Remote Homelands Delivery) within the annual report? What role do the assistant ministers play within the Department of Housing and Community Development?
15. What steps have been put in place to implement the recommendations by Merit Partners in the Independent Probity Audit?
16. What authority do Housing Reference Groups have to allocate public housing within their area. Under what circumstances will the department overrule decisions of Housing Reference Groups?
17. How many Territorians went without housing (including transitional housing) due to upgrades or works during the period of the annual report? Please provide a breakdown by number and location.
18. Under the Government's "fast tracked" Room to Breathe program, how many rooms or living spaces were completed with the \$10 million brought forward to the 2016-17 financial year as of 30 June 2017?