

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Attorney-General:

Crime Victims Services Unit

1. How many staff comprise the Crime Victims Services Unit, expressed in full time equivalent (FTE) units? How does that compare, on an FTE basis, with fiscal year 2017-18 and 2016-17?
2. What is the entire budget allocation for the unit for fiscal year 2018-19?
3. How many applications for financial assistance have been processed by the Crime Victims Services Unit in the following financial years:
 - a. 16/17
 - b. 17/18.

Please list the number of applications and average quantum of payments.

4. What are the mean, median and average turnaround times for processing an application? What is the longest processing time for an application in the last two years?
5. How many applications are in process as at 14 January 2019?
6. How many victim/offender conferences have been facilitated by the Unit in this financial year to 14 January 2019? How many FTEs have been dedicated to victim/offender conferencing in the past 12 months?

ANSWERS

1. As at June 2017 (from the annual report) = 10.8 FTE
As at June 2018 (from the annual report) = 11.05 FTE
As at January 2019 = 14.53 FTE

~~Note: the additional staffing levels in 2019 are associated with new positions within the newly formed NT Redress Coordination Team.~~

2. ~~TOTAL=~~The budget allocation for Crimes Victims Services Unit is \$5.639 million:
- ~~Management & Support: \$1.307 million~~
 - ~~Crime Victims Assistance: \$2.736 million~~
 - ~~Victims of crime grants: \$1.596 million~~

~~Note: There is currently no budget allocation for the NT Redress Coordination Team nor for payments to survivors under the National Redress Scheme. These expenses are currently met from existing resources.~~

3. ~~In 2016-17 approximately~~ 214* decisions made under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act* (with \$1.134m in financial assistance awarded to victims in that period);

~~In 2017/2018 approximately~~ 384* decisions made under the Act (with \$2.783m financial assistance awarded to victims in that period)

4. The CVSU ~~information system does not provide reporting capabilities and would need manual calculation of these requests which would be resource intensive~~ does not have a case management system that allows for the calculation of the mean, median and average turnaround time times of applications.

~~There are a range of factors that contribute to the time involved in processing applications, including awaiting outcome of criminal proceedings, the complexity of the victim's medical condition, reduced engagement of the victim through the process and difficulty in accessing appropriate medical specialists.~~

~~Application processing time can range from a few days to several years based on these factors.~~

5. ~~The approximate figure extracted from records is 1576~~* (approximate extracted from TRIM records).

6. The CVSU does not facilitate victim/offender conferences. ~~This is a Territory Families responsibility.~~

~~* The CVSU does not have a customised case management system. Responses to answers 3 and 5 are therefore estimates only~~