

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

“One Mob” Activities

For the calendar years of 2021 and 2022, please provide the following details in regards to the activities of the “One Mob” within the general community of Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield municipality areas.

1. How many prisoners are part of the One Mob dance group?
2. What is the criteria to become eligible to be part of the One Mob dance group?
3. How many external community groups and organisations and government agencies (Commonwealth, Northern Territory and Local Governments) engaged One Mob for entertainment in the two calendar years and name the engagement agencies?
4. How many people of the One Mob attend the various engagements and how many corrections officers attend with the group?
5. What is the fee for attending a community event and does the fee vary and if so and what grounds and by how much?
6. What was the total fees collected for engaging the One Mob group for both years?
7. Where does the money get deposited – that is, to the Receiver of Territory Monies (RTM) or allocated back to the development of the One Mob dance group?
8. If fees collected do not go back to the development of the One Mob dance group and rehabilitation programmes for prisoners, why not?
9. How many corrections staff members are allocated to the management and development of the One Mob dance programme?
10. How many cultural engagement officers are there based at the Holtze prison and what is the ratio of the said officers to prisoners?
11. How many cultural engagement officers are there based within the Don Dale Youth detention facility?

12. What programmes are undertaken in the Don Dale Youth detention facility similar to the One Mob dance group?

ANSWER

1. The One Mob Different Country Dancers consists of 10 dancers. They perform within the Darwin and Palmerston area.
2. The prisoner must have experience in cultural dance in their community and one of the performers plays the digeridoo. The dancers must have an Open or Low security rating.
3. In 2020 and 2021, four different organisations engaged the dancers for a total of five performances. These organisations were the Royal Australia Air Force, the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, Deadly Enterprises Pty Ltd and Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.
4. The One Mob dance group have approximately eight to 10 prisoners attending each engagement. The Darwin Correctional Centre, Cultural Engagement Officer attends all performances along with either one correctional officer during business hours or two correctional officers after business hours.
5. The performance fee is \$1500 (GST inclusive) per performance. The fee does not vary to ensure there is fairness and equity across all applicants.
6. COVID-19 has significantly impacted on the One Mob Different Country program to undertake performances. Fees collected for the past two calendar years are:

2020: \$1 363.64 (excl GST)*

2021: \$5 454.56 (excl GST)

*Payment is revenue received for performances in 2019. There were no performances in 2020 due to COVID-19.
7. Payments are made to the Receiver of Territory Monies (RTM) and revenue is allocated to the department.
8. Payment of government receivable invoices at the RTM, or via an online payment method, is standard practice in the Northern Territory. Budget is allocated to the department for rehabilitation programs including the One Mob Dancers for transport, security, food, equipment and dance apparel.

9. One staff member in Northern Territory Correctional Services Head Office administratively manages the program and one staff member at the Darwin Correctional Centre coordinates the dancers in preparation for their performance, including transportation and being the Master of Ceremonies at the performance.
10. There is one Cultural Engagement Officer and six Prison Support Officers based at the Darwin Correctional Centre. The ratio changes with prisoner numbers.
11. The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities contracts Danilla Dilba Aboriginal Health Services to provide both the in-house health service at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre (DDYDC) and Social and Emotional Wellbeing support through engagement officers. The Social and Emotional Wellbeing contract ensures the provision of cultural support to the young people in detention, approximately five days per week.
12. The DDYDC provides a cultural music and dance program, Upai Purri, which has a strong focus using musical instruments and occasionally facilitator's perform cultural dances. DDYDC has court ordered programs such as Brother2Another and Country Connect that come to the centre to work with the young people.

DDYDC has previously engaged The Elders Visiting Program which involves Community Elders regularly visiting the centre to provide the young people cultural and emotional support, release planning, cultural program development and events, and often liaise between the young people and staff. DDYDC is currently working towards reinstating the Elders Visiting Program to the centre.

The Tivendale School at DDYDC hold the 'Our Way Our Say' program delivered by Headspace, and the Social Emotional Wellbeing program delivered by external Health Provider, Danila Dilba Health Services.