

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Josh Burgoyne to the Minister for Territory Families:

Youth Diversion and Programs

Please provide the following data for the 12 months to 30 September 2023:

- 1. Please list the Youth Justice Community Support and Diversion Programs available to youths, and the expenditure on each of these programs.**

ANSWER:

Community Youth Diversion is delivered in partnership between the Northern Territory Police and funded service providers. Wherever possible, police assess young people as suitable for diversion and give them opportunities to engage in Community Youth Diversion as a means to address offending behaviours.

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities provides recurrent funding up to \$3.155 million per annum to 12 organisations in 56 communities across the Northern Territory, to support young people to participate in community youth diversion programs.

- 2. What were the Youth Justice Detention Programs and what was the expenditure on these programs?**

ANSWER:

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities 2022-23 budget funded \$1,053,000 to 25 organisations across Don Dale and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centres to deliver programs to young people.

- 3. How many youths participated in a Youth Justice Community Support and Diversion Program who were:**
- a. Less than 12 years old at the time of commencement?**
 - b. 12 years or older at the time of commencement?**

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

For the period 1 January 2023 to 30 November 2023:

- 165 young people over 12 participated in Community Youth Diversion.

- 4. Of the youths who participated in a Youth Justice Community Support and Diversion Program who were less than 12 years old at the time of commencement, how many were referred by:**
- a. Police**
 - b. Parent/guardian**
 - c. Other family member**
 - d. Government agency**
 - e. Non-government agency**
 - f. Police**
 - g. Court**
 - h. School**
 - i. Other**

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

5. Of the youths who participated in a Youth Justice Community Support and Diversion Program who were 12 years or older at the time of commencement, how many were referred by:
- a. Police
 - b. Parent/guardian
 - c. Other family member
 - d. Government agency
 - e. Non-government agency
 - f. Police
 - g. Court
 - h. School
 - i. Other

ANSWER:

Young people are referred to Community Youth Diversion by:

- the Court or Northern Territory Police under the formal provisions of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* (NT)
- Government and non-government agencies for early intervention case management where they have had contact with or are at risk of entering/re-entering the youth justice system.

6. How many youths participated in a Youth Justice Detention Program who were:
- a. Less than 12 years old at the time of commencement?
 - b. 12 years or older at the time of commencement?

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

To collate this level of data would be too time consuming for the Department.

7. Of the youths who participated in a Youth Justice Community Support and Diversion Program who were less than 12 years at the time of commencement, how many were subsequently arrested, offended, or reoffended?

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

To collate this level of data would create an administrative burden for the Department.

8. Of the youths who participated in a Youth Justice Community Support and Diversion Program who were 12 years or older at the time of commencement, how many were subsequently arrested, offended, or reoffended?

ANSWER:

To collate this level of data would create an administrative burden for the Department.

9. How many youths participated in a Youth Justice Detention Program who were:

- a. Less than 12 years old at the time of commencement?**
- b. 12 years or older at the time of commencement?**

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

To collate this level of data would create an administrative burden for the Department.

10. Of the youths who participated in a Youth Justice Detention Program who were less than 12 years at the time of commencement, how many were subsequently arrested, offended, or reoffended?

ANSWER:

Following the increase to the age of criminal responsibility, all data related to people under 12 in the criminal justice system is bound by non-disclosure provisions and, therefore, cannot be provided.

11. Of the youths who participated in a Youth Justice Detention Program who were 12 years or older at the time of commencement, how many were subsequently arrested, offended, or reoffended?

ANSWER:

To collate this level of data would create an administrative burden for the Department.