

## PART II

### THE QUESTION PAPER

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II.

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

An asterisk preceding an entry in the index indicates  
that an answer has not yet been received.

Zone Taxation Rebates

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to seek a new inquiry into the level of zone taxation rebates or, at the very least, to ask the federal government to reconsider its decision in the light of the serious criticisms made of the conduct of the inquiry by Mr Slater, one of its members?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition was kind enough to write to me along these lines a couple of days ago. Unfortunately, he omitted from the letter that he sent me an enclosure to which he referred, namely a letter from Mr Slater to the Treasurer. I have responded to the Leader of the Opposition's letter asking him to let me have a copy of that letter. I would certainly be very interested to see the contents of Mr Slater's letter of criticism of the methodology of the inquiry.

The Northern Territory government believes that it and other parties, including the opposition in the Northern Territory, put very sound and well-reasoned submissions to the inquiry. One would have thought that this was a well-constituted inquiry. The members of the inquiry were people of distinction in their various fields and we believe that the arguments that the Territory government, the opposition and various other parties throughout northern Australia put forward to this inquiry were cogent and convincing. It was a matter of grave disappointment to us that the inquiry came out with what we regarded as very niggardly recommendations. In fact, had the federal government acceded to the recommendations of the inquiry, Darwin would have been taken out of zone A and the people of Darwin would have been significantly disadvantaged as a result. At present, my personal views are that to press for a reopening of the inquiry may not get us anywhere and may simply result in a great deal of hard work and hot air. I believe that the matter has progressed from an administrative procedure to the political field, and that it will be necessary for us to attempt, by political means, to exert pressure for increases in the allowances.

I say that, Mr Speaker, not having seen the letter that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has apparently received from Mr George Slater. I am sorry that Mr Slater did not see fit to send me a copy of the letter as well because I had discussions with him during the course of the inquiry and he knew of my feelings on the whole matter. I believe that Mr Slater was sympathetic to the aspirations of the Northern Territory. When I have that, I will make my decision. Certainly, we will not let the matter rest. We believe that it is necessary for people living in the Northern Territory to be more handsomely compensated for some of the disadvantages of living in isolation than they are at present.

Community Health Centres

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

If I could set the record straight for the Chief Minister, Mr Slater did not send us that letter. It fell off a truck

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will ask his question.

Mr B. COLLINS: Will he examine the more liberal attitude to charges imposed at community health centres in other states with a view to moderating charges at centres in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I can assure him that this government would be happy to compare its community health services and its charges in that area with those operating anywhere else in Australia. We would find that our services and charges are not unreason-

able given the environment in which we work. If the Leader of the Opposition could provide me with details of places with which the Northern Territory should compare itself, I would be happy to take the matter up and write to him later.

Prawn Trawling in Fog Bay

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Following his meeting with local prawn trawler skippers, has any agreement been reached on limiting the size of nets to be used in the Fog Bay area? If so, when will those limitations be implemented?

ANSWER

Representations were made to the government, through myself, by private prawn trawler operators. Some of the representations involved the closure of the Fog Bay area, which I have since authorised, the restriction of certain net sizes and the length of the rope involved with the nets. Those representations are still under consideration. I promised the operators at the time that some of their representations would be sent on to Canberra. I indicated that representations the Northern Territory government had made to Canberra over the years had been unsuccessful in respect of limiting the number of vessels involved in the northern prawn fishery, but we were not prepared to discontinue our representation on their behalf.

Nursing Staff Resignations in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of the high number of resignations of senior and highly-trained nursing staff in the Alice Springs Hospital and will he give an undertaking to investigate the reasons for these resignations and report back on them to this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to forward the contents of his question to the secretary of the department. When I have received a suitable response, I will forward it to the honourable member.

Zone Allowance Negotiations

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he in a position to report to the Assembly on results of zone allowance negotiations with the federal Treasurer for areas outside of Darwin?

ANSWER

I am able to report to the Assembly. The position is as I mentioned earlier in response to the question from the honourable Leader of the Opposition. Darwin is retained in zone A. As I recollect, Alice Springs remains in zone B. The other Territory towns remain in the zones in which they were before the inquiry was held. As a consequence of the inquiry, the only significant advantage to people living in those urban centres is that the allowance for dependants has been increased by some 50%, which of course is some help. However, people living some 200-250 km from urban centres have now been significantly advantaged. I think the level of population of the urban centre from which the distance was measured was in the order of 2000 people. Special allowances have now been made for those people so that the many citizens of the Territory who reside in remote areas will be significantly advantaged as a consequence of that decision.

Child Welfare Legislation

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New child welfare legislation has been in preparation for a number of years in the Northern Territory. Is that legislation ready to be introduced this sittings?

ANSWER

The legislation is certainly not ready for introduction at this sittings. The job of preparing new welfare legislation for the Northern Territory has been a very comprehensive one. The work was started on a fairly intensive basis following the welfare report that was prepared in the Northern Territory some time ago. The department has engaged experts in various fields of welfare to assist it in the preparation of new legislation to ensure that the Territory can have efficient and modern legislation. I cannot put a specific time on it, Mr Speaker, but I would hope to have it prepared for introduction in the early part of next year.

Inquiry into Operations of Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that there is a departmental inquiry into the operations of the Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit? If it is a fact, what are the terms of reference of the inquiry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, to my knowledge, there is not.

Motel at Tennant Creek

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

There has been publicity surrounding the building of a motel at Tennant Creek which has caused some speculation. Can he inform me of the position regarding the building of this motel, having regard to the fact that the operation of the Territory Development Corporation comes within his portfolio?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Territory Development Corporation has assisted a number of hotel and motel operators throughout the Territory. Details of individual loans are not normally provided as they are confidential business matters. I thank the honourable member for not bringing specific names into her question. The project at Tennant Creek has had some problems due to a contractor failing during the course of construction. Work was delayed for some time as a result of that, but has recommenced now. It should be completed by April 1982 and adequate steps are being taken to ensure that government funds provided for the project are secure. The Territory Development Corporation has adopted an attitude of trying to sort out the problems which occasionally occur when works that it is funding or partly funding fall into some difficulty. It will try very hard to have such projects continued and completed. We are trying, and I believe succeeding, to build an infrastructure of tourist accommodation throughout all centres of the Northern Territory. We have badly needed these for a long time and, despite the odd problem that comes along from time to time, as will happen with construction in some of the remoter areas, we will continue to adopt an attitude of seeking to solve the problem with a view to having the project completed rather than taking an easier way out, calling it quits and withdrawing funds and support.

Nursing Home at Palmerston

Mr HARRIS to MINISTR for HEALTH

It was recently announced that a nursing home would be established at Palmerston. Is he able to indicate what other areas were considered for the establishment of a nursing home?

ANSWER

The government intends to establish nursing homes in every major community throughout the Northern Territory. The proposal to establish a nursing home at Palmerston results from a proposition put by a Melbourne firm which already operates a home in Melbourne and which sought an opportunity to open a private nursing home in the Northern Territory. I might add that the Melbourne firm had sought and obtained from the Department of Social Security an option over the establishment of a 40-bed home in Darwin. That option gave the proponents a right to a federal government social security benefit payment towards the operation of a private nursing home. In fact, the proponents have 12 months in which to exercise their option. The proponents of the home approached the government seeking its cooperation and views on the establishment of the home and have received the full support of this government.

So far as the exact siting in Darwin is concerned, the proponents looked at using existing infrastructure at the annexe to the old Darwin Hospital. In their view, the cost of operating that infrastructure was so high that they would need \$0.5m subsidy each year just to maintain the boiler room, airconditioning plant and other ancillary services, apart from any bed subsidy that would go towards the cost of operating the home. In their view, the cost of going into the Darwin annexe was outrageous and prohibitive. The proponents also looked at sites in the northern suburbs and found them to be too small for possible future expansion. The government suggested to the proponents that an area in the Palmerston town development would be made available if they were interested. They indicated an interest and have taken up a site. I believe that, at this stage, they are discussing the development proposal with their architects and the Palmerston Development Corporation and all the other people involved in moving to Palmerston. I believe there is also room in the planning and discussion stage that is taking place at the moment for other developments to take place, such as a private hospital at Palmerston if that should ever be seen as an economic and justified requirement for the area. If that answers the honourable member's question, I am happy. If he needs any other information, I would be happy to provide it to him.

Complaints about Kern Company

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he received a report from the Consumer Affairs Commission on its investigation into the complaints of Mr Kell and others about the standard of building carried out by the Kern company and will he provide members with a copy of the report?

ANSWER

Yes, I received a copy of the report at 9 am today. It has been most unfortunate that there were delays in getting this report to me. However, I am advised that the experts who went from the Department of Transport and Works to inspect the house and provide a detailed report on it on behalf of the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs found that they had a fairly sizeable task in front of them. Of course, one does not want to rush such reports. They should be put together with the best detail and knowledge available to us. The report has only just been received by my office and, until such time as I have an opportunity to read it myself and decide what course of action should be taken,

I believe it would be unwise for me to circulate a copy or table it in the Assembly. I may take both those courses of action but I believe it would be wise to consider the content of the report before deciding on a course of action.

Schooling for Pintupi People

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I preface my question by drawing his attention to the Pintupi people resident in the Kintore Ranges since August of this year. When will he commence schooling for the children in that community?

ANSWER

Part of the question that the honourable member just asked contained one of my problems in this matter. He mentioned 50 people, as I heard it. Nonetheless, for the information of the Assembly there is an Aboriginal organisation which calls itself the Western Desert Outstation Council. It has moved from Papunya. They are Pintupi people. The Papunya area, of course, is not their land. The organisation moved from Papunya to the Kintore Ranges some 350 miles west of Papunya. Like anyone else, the Aboriginal people will be well aware that when a section of a community leaves an area where all government services are provided and moves some 350 miles into very difficult and arid country, obviously there will be some penalty, at least in the short term, relating to the provision of government services. Of course, education is not excluded from that. The problem is to work out who is there, what numbers, how many children and what the demand may be.

Mr Paul Parker is a person who may describe himself as a latter-day Moses. I name him because he has been associated with newspaper releases on the matter. Mr Parker claims that there are some 177 people at Kintore, of whom about 70 are children. Three officers of the Department of Education visited Kintore on 1 October. On that day, a significant number of the people had gone to Balgo Mission in Western Australia. They were able to identify 30 persons at Kintore, of whom 15 were children of school age. It would seem from that information that 130 people had gone to the mission in one truck on that particular day. In other words, there is a very serious question about the number of people who are there. The current position as far as the government is concerned is that we need to establish whether or not the community is a permanent one, whether or not it will be a permanent community in itself or whether or not Kintore is to be the hub of a series of outstations. All these questions have a very significant bearing on the ability of a government department of the size of the Department of Education in the Northern Territory to provide services to a community which has moved to such an extremely remote area.

Mr Speaker, the people there have a water supply drawn from hand pumps. There is no other facility out there. They have to face what will be a particularly difficult summer. Of course this will include the school vacation period. I think we could be very unwise to commit the taxpayer to pursuing this community into the desert, and I use that term quite deliberately, until such time as we find out whether or not it will be a stable community. If DAA recognises it as such and the Department of Community Development recognises it as such, then it commits not only the Commonwealth but also this government to significant expenditure indeed.

Mr Speaker, let us find out what the nature of the community is, see how stable it will become, and then make decisions based upon that information.

Housing Commission Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the combined will of the Housing Commission and the Department of Law yet found any way of selling Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my colleague the Minister for Community Development expects to be able to introduce legislation into the Assembly in the course of this sittings. At my last discussion with the joint venturers at Gove, they indicated to me that, once legislation was tabled in the Assembly and they had an indication of the government's attitude towards the legal solutions for their problems in providing land in that area for the purpose of Housing Commission use, particularly the provision of Housing Commission houses for sale, we could really get down to talks in negotiation with them. I would hope that, well before the passage of any such legislation in this Assembly, very firm solutions will be found to the problem.

Plenty Highway Signposts

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that the eastern end of the Plenty Highway near the Queensland border is sadly lacking in signposts? As a matter of urgency, will he have his department erect signposts on this lonely section of the highway to ensure the safety of motorists?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the situation there but I will have the matter investigated and take whatever action is necessary.

Ranger Mine Closure

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Mr Speaker, I will ask the question in 3 parts to avoid any supplementary questions. Why was the Ranger mine closed? Why did the breach of regulations exist for so long without being picked up by the Department of Mines and Energy inspectors? Why wasn't the matter reported by the company?

ANSWER

In reference to the second and third parts of his question, I will be able to give the Assembly more advice later in the day or early tomorrow morning. If the honourable Leader of the Opposition will bear with me until a written report is compiled on the matter, that would be helpful.

The mine was closed last night at the direction of the Secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy because he was concerned at the lack of activity that has taken place on the lease and at the lack of cooperation he was getting at such a late hour in answer to questions that needed to be answered. The only way for him to get the matter into proper perspective was to close the mine until the inquiry relating to the alleged incident was conducted, completed and acted upon. I will report to the Assembly again when further information is available.

Private Hospital for Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the answer just given to my previous question on nursing homes, is the government still considering applications for the establishment for a private hospital at the site of the old Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

I am happy to advise that the period for persons to register their interest and submit their tenders for the use of the Darwin annexe as a private hospital site is still open. I believe tenders close at the end of this month. We hope that an assessment of these applications will be completed during December and January. We will be in a better position in the New Year to know whether the

Darwin annexe does have any appeal to the private sector for use as a hospital and, if so, under what terms, conditions and costs.

Geothermal Energy in NT

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has a decision been made on a mechanism for the investigation of possible sources of geothermal energy in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The geothermal technology to which the honourable member refers has been around for some time in other countries. It has recently been proposed by a Western Australian firm that we apply the technology in the Northern Territory with a view to establishing a geothermal resource which would be an asset to the Northern Territory. The difficulty so far has been the legal position of any person exploring for geothermal energy within the Northern Territory because geothermal technology requires that the area be rather large and definitely in excess of the 5000 square kilometres that we give out under an exploration licence. Further, there is a need that any company exploring for geothermal energy in a particular area does not have a right to any other mineral or element found in that area. The department has been working now for some 6 to 9 months on this problem. It is not just a problem for the Northern Territory because state governments are studying similar proposals. We hope to have legislation ready for March next year which will enable geothermal exploration to go ahead.

Essentially, it would follow the same premise of exploration that we have now for the oil and gas industry in that a special exploration licence for geothermal energy could be issued over a rather large area. The large areas are required because satellite and infra-red technology are important aspects of the exploration program. An exploration licence could be offered over a large area to a company that would have a work program of some millions of dollars to complete in a specified time. Having worked on that block it would have no right to any other element that might be on the block that it is given. Some people in the industry may see this as a conflict but it is no different to mining companies which have exploration licences which cover all the base metals and elements whilst oil and coal explorers have the rights over a similar block for what they are seeking. I hope that answers the honourable member's question. Hopefully, we will have the legislation early next year.

Conservation Commission Plan of Management for Recreational Use of Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he table the report recently completed by the Conservation Commission on a management plan for the recreational use of the Gunn Point area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, no.

Detached Dwellings in Palmerston

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

It was recently announced that the Palmerston Development Authority is considering the provision of 400-square-metre blocks for detached dwellings. Can he tell me what proportion of the lots allocated for detached dwellings would be of this size?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, if I have anything to do with it, none. Of course, there have been none to date. The proposal was floated in the general context of a push

that the government has been conducting towards lower-cost housing. The Palmerston Development Authority suggested to the developers that they might examine the possibility of blocks of considerably smaller size than the 800 square metres normally recommended for Darwin. The developers were not of the view that that would be wise - 3 cheers and full marks for the developers. In certain areas, given broader spacing around smaller residential land holdings, it is possible to come down to about 600 to 650 square metres a block, provided they are not one after the other because that is hardly commensurate with a tropical environment. The answer is none. As usual, the NT News - I am certain it would be the NT News - got it all messed up again. No such blocks have been developed or contemplated to the best of my knowledge.

Motel near Alice Springs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

There has been some publicity surrounding the building of a motel near Alice Springs. It has caused some speculation. What is the position regarding this motel having regard to the fact that the operation of the Northern Territory Development Corporation comes within his portfolio?

ANSWER

As I mentioned in answer to a question earlier this morning, occasionally, particularly in the more remote areas of the Northern Territory, people get into trouble with the construction of buildings, the retention on site of contractors and the provision of materials. The Northern Territory Development Corporation has been assisting some people to build a very worthwhile project outside Alice Springs. It is on a site where a motel is very much needed according to our tourist advisers. The project is in fact nearing completion. However, some difficulties have arisen in regard to the portion of the funds to be raised by the owners of the property as distinct from the portion of funds loaned by the Northern Territory Development Corporation. As a result, there are some creditors who remain unpaid at the present time. The building is not yet complete. The government is not involved. The problem of the outstanding creditors is one between the owners and the creditors themselves.

The Northern Territory Development Corporation is currently examining ways of arranging for completion of the building so that the original intention can be fulfilled. Solicitors have been engaged to represent the corporation's interest. I point out that the NTDC is the only mortgagee of the property and the government's funds in this matter are completely protected. However, it is a complex matter and we are currently tackling it with a view to having the project completed as a priority. Then it can serve its purpose and earn some money so that various people can be paid. The Territory will end up with another very valuable resource as part of its tourist infrastructure.

Water Storage Tank East of Sadadeen

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he give an estimate of when the water storage tank being built east of Sadadeen will be commissioned?

ANSWER

The contract had been suspended for a short time because of design problems that became apparent at the time of excavation. However, the work will be completed in September 1982.

Conversion of Roller Skating Rink to a High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise the Assembly of the government's position in regard to the proposed conversion of a disused roller skating rink into an independent high school at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

I am surprised the honourable gentleman did not ask us what our attitude would be to converting that into a university. That is more his style.

Mr B. Collins: That's tomorrow.

Mr ROBERTSON: I am sure the honourable gentleman refers to a rather remarkable proposal that has been put forward by a committee in the Darwin rural area. This of course is a matter that I have spoken of at length in this Assembly. You will recall that, under no circumstances, could I accept the proposition put forward by the committee for a temporary high school for Humpty Doo. The fact is that it is totally unsound educationally. This proposal is reminiscent of Don Quixote. It is probably the most absurd proposition I have ever heard.

Mr Speaker, as I understand the matter, the committee had a public meeting some few weeks ago at Humpty Doo at which a constitution was put before the public. I understand that the committee did not even want the public to see the constitution much less delay it for a period of time for consideration. Mr Speaker, I would caution people in the rural area against being led along by what I can only describe as well-meaning but ill-informed zealots. If any proposal for such a private high school is of the same standard as the proposal for a temporary high school, then such a high school would have absolutely no prospect whatsoever of being registered under the Education Act. If it were not registered under the Education Act, it would have no prospect of government funding. Indeed, while it would not be the intention of government to see prosecutions, I would also remind parents that they would be in breach of the Education Act, by providing their children with an education which, in most circumstances, would be most likely to be unsatisfactory.

I can only repeat myself and caution people in the area against being misled by others who for some extraordinary reason are not now satisfied with the tremendous efforts that this government is making to provide secondary education in the rural area. The government is working towards the establishment of a full range of facilities in the Humpty Doo area for commencement in the 1983 school year. This has been placed ahead of all other priorities in education and to the disadvantage of some other communities which have been waiting much longer, for example Tennant Creek. I am talking about the high school there and the people who have waited so patiently. This government has gone out of its way to satisfy the secondary educational needs of the people of the rural area. Notwithstanding all of that, we have this absurd proposition for the establishment of a high school in a disused skating rink.

#### Salaries in the Northern Territory Public Service

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the government aware that substantial salary movements are occurring in the Australian Public Service, other public services and the private sector? Are similar moves being sought in the Northern Territory Public Service and, if so, what is the likely impact on the Territory budget?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, salary claims in the order of 20% have been lodged by most public service unions with the Public Service Commissioner. The increases so far negotiated in the Australian Public Service and elsewhere are somewhat less than this figure. On discernible trends to date and depending on the outcome of negotiations in the Territory which will occur in the near future, it appears likely that the cost to the Territory this financial year of salary increases to come out of the latest round of pay claims will be in the order of \$7m.

Norforce

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

As his government has a policy of encouraging Northern Territorians to join Norforce and a policy of encouraging private employers to cooperate, would he inform the Assembly why members of the Northern Territory Fire Brigade are forbidden to join the force?

ANSWER

I have been informed by the Director of Fire Services that members of the fire brigade could be called out at any time to service the needs of the community and, because of that, they are not permitted to join Norforce.

Stamp Duty Exemption

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the stamp duty exemption for first-time house purchasers or house builders on rural residential allotments yet available?

ANSWER

I am not exactly sure what the honourable member for Sanderson is getting at. If she could give further clarification, I will have the matter followed up.

Ms D'Rozario: The stamp duty exemption is currently only available to persons who are building on allotments of less than 2.04 hectares.

Mr PERRON: I undertake to give a response to the honourable member during the course of the sittings.

Reconstruction of Smith Street Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have funds yet been allocated to the Alice Springs Town Council for the reconstruction of Smith Street and, if so, when were the funds allocated and what was the amount of the allocation?

ANSWER

The government has not specifically allocated any funds to the Alice Springs council for this project.

Inland Fishing Industry

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does he have any plans for the development of an inland fishing industry?

ANSWER

The department has no specific plans for the development of aquaculture, but there are some proposals currently before us which we are studying with great interest. We are prepared to give whatever support we can by way of extension services and scientific advice.

Domestic Violence

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the government considering taking any action to counter the problem of domestic violence in the Northern Territory community particularly in the pre-wet season by establishing domestic violence committees similar to those in the states with a view to taking some of the burden off the Police Force?

ANSWER

Naturally, the government is concerned at the incidence of domestic violence and presently the police bear the brunt of attempting to assist in this area. It has always been a matter of concern to the government that the Police Force is at the pointy end of the stick in dealing with community problems such as the apprehension of drunken people, disorderly people and people committing acts of violence. Obviously, a policeman's lot is not a terribly happy one and it is not helped by the innumerable criticisms that are levelled at it. To this end, the government is prepared to consider anything reasonable towards the amelioration of the situation not only of the police but also to assist people who are subject to domestic violence. Domestic violence is a difficult matter to deal with unless one of the parties complains. There are counselling services available in the community to assist in marriage guidance. I understand these services are used extensively.

I hope to introduce the Criminal Code this sittings. The Leader of the House has just mentioned to me that he and the Leader of the Opposition think that the session may not go beyond this week. I would hope that it will, Mr Speaker, even if we have to filibuster, because I want to introduce the Criminal Code during this sittings. I do not think it will be ready for introduction until next week because of its volume and the obvious difficulties of getting it and other legislation through the Government Printing Office. The provisions of the Criminal Code will improve the situation. There are provisions relating to offences between the sexes. I hope that, with these and with the facilities already available in the community, advances can be made.

As to the suggestion of establishing committees in the community on the problem of domestic violence, I have adverted to that myself. I think it is more properly the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister for Community Development. It may be that he has the matter under consideration or that it could be referred to him for consideration.

Fruit Entering Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

In view of the second outbreak of Mediterranean fruit fly in Alice Springs does his department envisage a permanent check on fruit entering the Alice Springs area, similar to that which now applies in Adelaide?

ANSWER

The situation in South Australia is quite different to that in the Northern Territory. The cost in South Australia of an inspectorial workforce is approximately \$1m per year. Our situation is that we have an outbreak that we hope to eliminate. I think that will cost in the vicinity of \$50,000. We provide checks at the entry points, mainly at the railway station and the airport. Until such time as the fruit fly has been eradicated in Alice Springs, we will maintain those checks. I have a report from the senior scientist who advised me yesterday. The second round of bait spraying was completed on Saturday 21 November and a third round will commence Wednesday 25 November 1981. One fly was trapped on the final day of the first round of spraying but none has been detected now for 8 days. He is confident of containing the outbreak in due course.

NT Portion 1097

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I remind him of a grant he made earlier this year to Messrs Conway and Lander of a Crown lease over Northern Territory Portion 1097. Did he, by letter or personally, advise the solicitors for the proprietors of Tempe Downs that consideration of adding NT Portion 1097 to their lease could not be given because it was subject to claim under the federal Land Rights Act?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman is asking me to recall possible correspondence going back over a very lengthy period of time. I ask him to place the question on notice.

Nursing Sister at Garden Point

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the details regarding the withdrawal of the position of nursing sister at Garden Point on Melville Island?

ANSWER

I would like to emphasise to members of the Assembly that there is no determined plan to withdraw sisters from communities where the communities wish the sisters to remain. For the benefit of honourable members, I would like to spend a moment outlining some of the changes of direction that are taking place in the Department of Health at the moment so far as the provision of medical services to Aboriginal communities is concerned.

All members would be aware that in about 1975, the Department of Health set up an Aboriginal Health Worker Training Program which has the ultimate objective of allowing Aborigines to become competent in the field of providing medical services in their communities and ultimately to take over those responsibilities themselves. The training program that we have now has been under way for 6 years and some of the Aborigines in the program have reached a very high level of proficiency. I might add that some of the people officially admitted to the Aboriginal Health Worker Training Program in 1975 had already been working with departmental people for 7 or 8 years as helpers in the field for visiting rural sisters and doctors.

Mr Speaker, we have now reached a point where some communities are saying quite openly - and they put it to me at the Aboriginal Health Workers Conference in Alice Springs last year and again in Darwin this year - that they feel a time has come for the department to handover responsibility in some of the communities. I fully support this proposal where the communities want it and the Aboriginal staff of the department have demonstrated the confidence to take over and do what needs to be done. There is no policy of abandonment or of force in this particular measure. It is really one of consultation and cooperation between the department and the communities that the department serves.

In one particular case, the community wrote back and said: 'Yes, we are not shy about taking over our clinic'. This is in East Arnhem Land. 'We are happy for you to withdraw the rural sisters. We won't be fussed if they go. However, we would like the doctor to call for half a day a week if that is still possible'. In another instance, a young man took over an Aboriginal Health Clinic where he has been working for 12 to 14 years and demonstrated an undoubted capacity to carry out his duties.

Not all communities share the feeling of confidence that some people in remote areas have. As the honourable member for Tiwi suggested in her question this morning, people at Garden Point are a little hesitant about making the move. The response I expect from those communities that are not keen to move in a hurry - and I know Dr Trimmings feels the same - would be that it is all right

and that they will do it when they are ready and not before. In the meantime, the opportunity is there for communities to take up the option if they so wish.

I think this highlights a great advance in the area of health care delivery in remote areas. The objective of the department and of the program has always been to prepare for the day when Aborigines take over these clinics and functions and administer them themselves. Unfortunately, a situation can arise in some places where there is a structure which just does not enable it to happen because all the European sisters are needed there because of the Europeans in the community. Thus, a stage is never reached where the Aborigines take over for themselves. Nevertheless, where communities are determined that they want to do this, they will find the department, and me particularly, cooperative.

#### Pensioner Air Fare Scheme

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Pensioner Air Fare Scheme which is proposed for introduction by his department on 1 July 1982 requires pensioners to pay the full air fare before they receive the 50% subsidy from the government. Will he amend the proposed scheme so that pensioners only need to raise half the fare before they receive the other half from the government under the scheme?

ANSWER

Officers of the Department of Community Development have been holding talks with the airlines over the last couple of weeks with a view to evolving a system whereby pensioners under the scheme that will take effect from 1 July next year will not have to pay the full cost of the air fare before claiming a rebate. The problem is a little complex as the department must be careful to comply with Treasury and audit regulations and there needs to be some form of protection to try to cover the situation of persons seeking to abuse the system. As members know, it is very easy to travel on air tickets that are issued for other people. It probably goes on from time to time. However, I appreciate the deficiency that could exist under an arrangement where a pensioner is required to buy and use a fare and then present a used ticket in order to obtain a government rebate. I am hopeful that the government and the airlines can work out a scheme whereby the 50% that is to be contributed by the government does not need to be paid first by a pensioner. I cannot say that we have found a solution.

#### Controlling Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Some of the coconut palm trees around Darwin are looking very sick indeed. He has indicated that the department is looking at the possibility of introducing a parasite to control the palm leaf beetle. Has any progress been made towards finding an effective method of control?

ANSWER

The situation has not changed much since the member asked the question at the last sittings. The search for a natural predator of the palm leaf beetle will need luck to be successful. We will need further advice on this. To this end, an overseas authority will shortly visit Darwin.

#### Humpty Doo High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the news announcement this morning that the Humpty Doo High School is proceeding with the appointment of a principal shortly and that children will be enrolled for school year 1982, can he assure the Assembly that he will give this matter his closest personal attention to ensure that the educational needs of the children attending that school are adequately catered for?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, regretfully, there is nothing I can do to ensure that the education of children who attend such a proposed private school is adequate. That is the very thing that worries me. It worries me very deeply. I am to have a meeting today with the convenor of the committee. It is at his request and I willingly acceded to that request. Probably it will take place in the precincts of the Assembly because of the workload of the Assembly. I hope to discuss that issue in particular with the gentleman during the course of the day and at least indicate to him what he is getting himself into. What I have just said is quite wrong. It is not what he is getting himself into; it is what he is getting those children into.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

My question is about the Northumberland Insurance Company. Is he aware that persons affected by the collapse of the company who have contacted the Territory Insurance Office have apparently received an offer of 50% of their outstanding claims? Could he verify this and state what the latest position on the Northumberland debacle is?

ANSWER

I will read out some information that has been provided to me by the Treasury on this matter, which may in fact answer the honourable member's questions. In September 1980, Cabinet approved a scheme whereby 50% of awarded third-party damages of the defaulting Northumberland Insurance Company would be paid out of the Treasury's trust account and that the moneys would be recouped from money set aside for the repayment of past third-party motor insurance losses. The trust account has been established and all those road accident victims who responded to an advertising campaign conducted in October and November last year have had their cases considered by the Territory Insurance Office. Amounts of compensation have been determined and payments will be made as soon as successful claimants have returned a signed deed of release. By signing the release, recipients of payments promise to repay any money subsequently recovered from another source and undertake not to make any further claims on the Northern Territory government. A bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act is being prepared. Amendments are designed to ensure that the money provided from the compensation fund established under that act - that is, the fund built up from the compulsory \$10 levy per motor vehicle - will not be paid to the liquidator of Northumberland Insurance Company and can only be used to repay the Northern Territory appropriation to the trust account.

I think that that statement, whilst it perhaps requires a closer deliberation, provides some of the answers the honourable member for Nightcliff requires.

Police Cadets

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will there be an intake of police cadets in 1982?

ANSWER

The scheme of having police cadets in the Northern Territory which was introduced by the present Police Commissioner a couple of years ago has been very successful. I believe that the current intake of cadets is shortly to pass out. They will be a most valuable acquisition to the Northern Territory and to its Police Force. Most of them, if not all of them, are boys of local families. Indeed, the sons of a couple of policemen are in the ranks of the cadets. A couple of young men of Aboriginal extraction are amongst the cadets as well. I believe that it has been a very forward step on the part of the Police Force. It has worked well and I will fully support the commissioner in having another

intake of cadets for 1982. Not only will it provide additional employment, it will provide a very valuable and worthwhile career for many young men and women and it will add stability to the Northern Territory Police Force because most of them will have had their roots in the Northern Territory for many years.

Housing Commission Rent Review Formula

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the recent Northern Territory Housing Commission rental increase, could he make available to members of this Assembly the Northern Territory Housing Commission rent review formula for both public service and general public rents, the annual rent review documentation including the source and effect of the resulting calculations - in other words, how this formula was arrived at - and a comparison between Northern Territory rents and appropriate southern rents to enable this Assembly to gain an appreciation of the true costs and values of Northern Territory rents?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does he have a report from his officers on the breach of environmental regulations at Ranger?

ANSWER

I have a report from officers in response to the questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday.

The Secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy, accompanied by the Director of Mines and senior management staff of Ranger, visited the tailings pond site yesterday. The purpose was to inspect the tailings pond and to seek explanations about a reported breach of an authorisation which required liquid in the tailings pond to be 2 metres above the solids. The inspection confirmed that since 3 November 1981 solids had been permitted to protrude above the liquid to a height of about 10 centimetres over an area of 20 square metres. Until this morning, that situation still pertained.

The mines inspector did not report the matter to his superiors although he noted the circumstances in the Mine Record Book on 13 November 1981. From that time it became a matter of public record. The Department of Mines and Energy's environmental engineer also discussed the matter with ERA on 10 November. Similarly, ERA did not report the matter to the Supervising Scientist immediately because it considered that the matter was minor and it would be reported at the month's end.

The senior district mines inspector yesterday issued an instruction recorded in the Mine Record Book in terms that require the company to cease use of the tailings pond until ERA submits a report satisfactory to the Department of Mines and Energy detailing circumstances surrounding the breaches of authorisation concerning the tailings pond between 3 November and 24 November 1981. Further, ERA is to submit a plan satisfactory to the Department of Mines and Energy to resume the operation of the pond in accordance with its authorisation. A further instruction also requires the immediate covering of all solids in the pond by liquid. ERA is complying with these directives.

I deeply regret, Mr Speaker, that it has been necessary to shut down a most important part of the Territory industry, even temporarily. I have to emphasise, as I have in the past to all mining companies, that they must be sensitive to the requirements of the authorities under which they operate. The fact is that ERA must have operated in breach of a ministerial authorisation for a period before 3 November. After the Department of Mines and Energy

inspector discovered this, ERA was not persuaded to rectify the situation by local officers of the department. The matter finally reached the departmental head and the plant was closed. At no time did the company come to the department or the Supervising Scientist and offer to rectify the situation to bring itself into compliance.

The department has reported the circumstances of the present incident as far as they are known to the Supervising Scientist, the Co-ordinator General, the Department of Trade and Resources, the Northern Land Council, and the Territory supervisory authorities. The department's initial view is that at no time has the incident been a threat to health or the environment. This is because the area of solids exposed was very small and saturated with liquid. ERA quotes radon gas emission from the tailings pond at zero and minute levels during the relevant period. This view must be considered as preliminary pending the receipt of reports from ERA and detailed orders and investigation by the department. I will be in a position to advise you fully, Mr Speaker, when the department has completed a detailed investigation.

While the incident itself may have been of no significance in terms of health or environmental hazards, it is one that saddens me because the industry simply is not listening to the things I have been telling it over a considerable period of time. Recently, I have mentioned that there have been 2 incidents in the uranium province that did not stand the industry in very good stead. I commented that the industry's credibility had been damaged in the eyes of the Commonwealth and the Northern Land Council and others. I said: 'I think there is going to be a great need in the coming years for us as an industry to lift our game in this area'. I understand that many of the people present at the function I refer to were angered by what I said. Unfortunately, it seems that anger was not sufficient for some of them to improve their performance in the areas I discussed.

What I said on that occasion was a repeat of what I said a year earlier. Unfortunately, I have to say it again although I said virtually the same thing when I spoke last week at the official opening of Ranger Mine. In the presence of the entire board of directors of Energy Resources of Australia I said: 'We have a great challenge before us to run the mine in a manner above reproach and in a manner which will put to rest the fears of critics and show us to be responsible corporate citizens. In the light of this development, there was little alternative but for the secretary of my department to exercise his authority and close the mill. When ERA has satisfactorily answered the questions asked of it, it will be reopened'. I hope this government will not be forced to close it or any other mine ever again.

#### Responsibility for Todd River

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has it been determined who has control over and responsibility for the Todd River?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I take it that the honourable member is referring to that portion which passes through the municipality of Alice Springs. This has been the subject of some speculation in the press. The municipality of Alice Springs passed a resolution saying that it would not accept any responsibility for the bed of the Todd River. I would like to point out to the Assembly and to the aldermen in Alice Springs, whom I have written to on this subject, that there is no way that they can possibly absolve themselves from responsibility for their normal local government functions. The bed of the Todd is quite clearly land within the municipality which is under their care and control. No resolution passed by the council can absolve it from that responsibility.

Government Housing Loan Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there a proposal currently under consideration to raise the maximum limit available to borrowers under the Government Housing Loan Scheme?

ANSWER

The answer to the question is no. Naturally, this is something we kept under constant review.

Brinkin Subdivision

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I noted in yesterday's edition of the NT News an advertisement drawing attention to the Kern development at Brinkin in which it was stated that there were no plans to build a school for the area and that existing schools were at capacity. Is this the situation?

ANSWER

The advertisement placed in the newspaper is quite incorrect. The misinformation which has been circulating in the northern suburbs in relation to the proposed Brinkin development by Kern, aided and abetted by the NT News, is completely inaccurate. If we take the existing schools at Nakara and Tiwi and consider the likely maximum primary student population in Brinkin, the Nakara school alone could accommodate whatever children are likely to be living in the Brinkin estate. Nakara has an optimum capacity of 660 students but present enrolments stand at 384. Tiwi is a slightly smaller school with a capacity of 510 and enrolments are 393. At peak, Brinkin would be likely to accommodate some 200 primary school students. Simple arithmetic would indicate that Nakara can accommodate the requirements of the Brinkin estate.

As for secondary students, it is not expected that a great number of such students would be housed in an estate such as Brinkin. Nonetheless, the present accommodation capacity of Dripstone High School is 900 though I would not really like to see it with a population of 900. Nonetheless, that is its designed capacity. There are presently 550 students in that institution. So there is no need for parents to worry on grounds of education.

The question covers what I believe to be gross misinformation, peddled, aided and abetted by the NT News. We ought to really get this whole thing into perspective. The planning instrument itself is probably the best vehicle to set the record straight. I will read from planning instrument D109: 'Under the provisions of the existing R3 zoning, sites A, B and C could be developed for the purposes of accommodating approximately 610 4-storey, 3-bedroom flats'. That is the present zoning. As we all know, and much to the chagrin of the Master Builders Association, flats require development proposals. Just because an area is zoned for flats, it does not mean that one can build dog boxes on it. A development application must be made to the Planning Authority.

I will again quote from the planning instrument: 'The intent of the proposed zoning is to restrict the development of these sites to 242 attached dwellings' - that is from a possible 610 - 'and flats by ensuring that a comprehensive development occurs in accordance with the terms outlined in the documents that are annexed to and form part of this draft planning instrument'. It is a draft planning instrument that we are talking about and it is to vary it from the existing blanket R3 right through that area to a very controlled and well-conceived concept. 'The development of the site as proposed will enable the creation of usable open spaces and fully-landscaped lawns and parks adjoining every home cluster. Such spaces will provide opportunity for the future residents, parents and children, to live and play individually or as a family within a short distance of their homes'. This part is important: 'The provision of 2-storey, attached dwellings in clusters on sites A and C and on

the Ellengowan Drive frontage of site B will ameliorate any detrimental effects likely to be caused to existing or proposed single residences in the locality'.

Mr Speaker, the idea is that, where people have a view from their existing homes, instead of risking the possibility of a 4-storey, little Mediterranean, if you like, along that road frontage, we will have low-profile, 2-storey buildings. If you stand on Ellengowan Drive, you cannot see the beach anyway. It is highly unlikely that you would even see an 8-storey tower.

I am not saying for a moment that I am for or against the proposal put forward by the Kern company as is its right under the Planning Act. The NT News portrayed this as a government initiative. That is utterly untrue. It is an application by the present owner of the land for a draft planning instrument to vary the zoning of the existing zones. It is not at all as portrayed to the public. Why on earth newspapers have to worry their readers unnecessarily with fabrications is quite beyond my understanding.

The matter goes back quite some time. It is said that the government should never have allowed the existing R3 in the first place. The matter was advertised in the NT News. I think some people must read it. That advertisement was in the NT News of 25 January 1980, 30 January 1980, 1 February 1980 and 6 February 1980. The closing date was 21 February 1980. Those 4 notices appeared in the newspapers and the Gazette - not that people read the Gazette. One assumes they read the NT News. As a result of those 4 separate notifications, 4 submissions were received. What else is the Planning Authority to do? In accordance with the act, it displays a proposition to create certain zonings over certain land and 4 comments, not actually objections, were lodged. It was over the Christmas period. It has been argued that it should not have been done at that time. I am not aware that February is more within the Christmas period than is October or November. It is equally detached from it.

In the same newspaper, the same type of criticism constantly comes out about how long it takes government to do things. When government proceeds in the normal course of events, it is rushing. I have written a letter to the editor which I really ought to read out in the adjournment debate because I have no doubt they will not have the intestinal fortitude to print it. I have indicated in that letter that, in the eyes of the NT News, no one can win.

#### Letter Concerning Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he undertake to table during these sittings a letter, reference PL629 (3)GL2072, of October last year giving details of his department's negotiations concerning Tempe Downs and, if so, when will he table it?

ANSWER

As I indicated before, the member completely misunderstands the operations of the ministry. I deal with thousands of letters in the course of one year. I certainly cannot remember that one. I will look into the matter and advise him later.

#### Reconstruction of Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when reconstruction of the Stuart Highway from Smith Street through and along Telegraph Terrace may commence?

ANSWER

The realignment from Smith Street on the Stuart Highway to Skinner Street on Telegraph Terrace is a proposal for the 1982-83 capital works program. Commencement of the project will depend upon funding at that particular time.

Amendments to the Tenancy Act

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

It has recently been announced that amendments to the Tenancy Act will be prepared to afford a measure of protection to residents of caravan parks. Could he inform me of the progress of these amendments and when he expects to present them in this Assembly?

ANSWER

I do not have any information that I can pass on to the member at this time. There are certainly many amendments to the Tenancy Act to be introduced into the Assembly during these sittings. These particular amendments have been in the pipeline, as it were, for some considerable time and are causing some very severe difficulties in the community. I could not undertake to have them held up pending further examination on the question of caravan parks. I cannot tell her when legislation is likely to be introduced to bring caravan dwellers under the control of the Tenancy Act.

Coastal Surveillance Flights

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he please request the Minister for Defence to vary the flight patterns of coastal surveillance flights?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand the member wishes to know whether I will ask the Minister for Transport to vary the flight patterns of surveillance flights. I do not know the flight patterns of surveillance flights. When one is out on the northern and western coastlines, they seem to come over 2, 3 and even 4 times a day. They seem to be quite frequent. I cannot say that I have set my watch by them so it may be that they are varied from time to time. I will look into the matter and, if these flights appear predictable, in the sense that one can set one's watch by them, then I will ask the Minister for Transport to ask that the patrol times be staggered.

Consumer Credit Legislation

Mrs O'NEIL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Now that both the Victorian and New South Wales governments have introduced consumer credit legislation, when does he expect to proceed with consumer credit legislation in the Northern Territory, as was discussed in the Assembly some years ago?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am surprised to hear the member for Fannie Bay assert that New South Wales and Victoria have commenced consumer credit legislation. I understand that the legislation was introduced in Victoria, and to the best of my knowledge, recollection and belief, it has stagnated in the Victorian Parliament for probably a couple of years because the volume of the legislation involved is extraordinary. There are several bills and they are all enormously complex. It was agreed amongst Attorneys-General at the time that the Victorian government would introduce the legislation in the Victorian Parliament which would act more or less at the testing ground for the legislation and seek public comment and comment from the credit industry on it. As I understand it, this process - which is unbelievably complex - is still going on.

Mr Speaker, I would not like to say that I am infallible on this subject. Certainly, I will check it out and let the member know if the position is different. However, my understanding is that the legislation has still not worked its way through the Victorian Parliament. It could be that the New South Wales government has decided to introduce some sort of consumer credit legisla-

tion on an interim basis. I have not heard of that either but the New South Wales Attorney-General is a rather impetuous young gentleman and he tends to go off at a tangent from time to time. This could be one of those tangential trots of his. I will look into that, but I do not believe that we should be party to what could best be a patchwork piece of legislation in a terribly complex area.

Honourable members may not be aware, although I am sure that you are, Sir, that the purpose of the legislation is to replace hire purchase contracts, bills of sale and all other types of commercial credit of that nature. It is almost revolutionary legislation. I would not want to see the Northern Territory setting the lead in this field because we would find that we were in financial quarantine if we did.

#### Passengers in the Rear of Utilities

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the recent horror crash in which a utility carrying 21 people overturned, killing 2 of them, is the government considering placing restrictions on the number of people to be carried in the back of utilities and trucks in an effort to reduce the possibility of similar accidents occurring?

ANSWER

This is a very complex question. It involves many problems not only in the city area but in the rural area where most of the fatalities of that nature occur. The chairman of the Road Safety Committee that was in Darwin just recently spoke on this particular topic and alluded to the fact that the committee was trying to come up with recommendations as to how that particular problem could be solved. Mr Katter, the chairman of that committee, stated that a requirement to fit some kind of handrail or seat-belt in the back of vehicles could be imposed on owners who wished to carry people in the back. Until such time as somebody can come up with an equitable way of allowing people to transport people in the backs of vehicles, it will be difficult for us to come to a firm decision.

Whilst in the rural area we have this problem of accidents occurring and people being seriously injured as a result of being thrown from the back of trucks, at the same time there is a very strong lobby in the Darwin area - especially through the schools and community organisations involved in sporting activities - to allow parents to transport children to various sporting venues. That is one of the problems that we have. On occasion, I have discussed this problem with the Road Safety Council and asked it to address itself to determining how we could achieve a fair measure of safety whilst still allowing people to use the backs of motor vehicles to transport people. Until such time as we can come to a firm conclusion, I am unable to provide the member for Port Darwin with any further information.

#### Administration of Gunn Point Area

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Could he indicate why that portion of the Gunn Point area formerly administered by the Forestry Unit is being changed in the Gazette to the administration of the prisons branch. Its forestry reserve will now be administered by the prisons branch and I ask him to indicate why.

ANSWER

The question should perhaps be directed to the Chief Minister. However, I am aware that it has been decided by the government that the Conservation Commission will no longer care for the forestry area at Gunn Point. It will be brought under the control of the prison out there. In fact, a great deal of the work in the forestry area at Gunn Point has, in the past, been done by

prisoners from Gunn Point Prison Farm anyway. We consider the prison farm to be a successful operation in the Northern Territory. It is a low-security prison and they have achieved a great deal out there. It is the cheapest possible way to keep prisoners. The concept of expanding it further into the forestry area is part of the government's initiative in this regard. It is really removing the responsibility for the forestry area from the Conservation Commission and giving it to Correctional Services.

Horticulture in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he report on any progress towards establishing an horticultural area near Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The honourable member has been very interested over the last couple of years in establishing horticulture in a larger way in the Central Australian area. One of the recommendations of the Lapidge Report was to create a position of horticultural officer in Alice Springs. We have done this. That officer took up his appointment in the middle of the year. His work so far has been delineating areas within a 80 kilometre radius of Alice Springs. His report on what areas may require development will be before the government early next year.

Housing Loans Interest Rate

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he made representations to the federal government to contain the pressure for increasing the interest rate for housing loans and, if so, what is the outcome of his representation?

ANSWER

The government continuously makes representation to the federal government on matters such as the interest rates in Australia, particularly those affecting home buyers. This is a matter that the Chief Minister has taken a particular interest in and has raised continuously in correspondence between himself and the Prime Minister. Indeed, my office also has had correspondence with the federal Treasurer on this matter. In answer to what effect they have had, one only has to look at the national scene and movement in interest rates. It has not been downwards unfortunately. The federal government has the Campbell Report which officers of the Northern Territory government are also studying with a view to taking a particular stance on various aspects of the report. There is no doubt that the reforms proposed by the Campbell Report are very far-reaching as far as financial administration systems in Australia are concerned. Of particular interest to politicians throughout the country is the effect the recommendations are likely to have on interest rates for home buyers. It is not a subject which can be canvassed during question time in the Assembly. I can assure the honourable member that the matter of trying to bring pressure from any quarter to reduce interest rates for home buyers is very much on our minds.

Northern Territory Development Corporation

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he consider the appointment of a Territory farmer to the board of the Northern Territory Development Commission?

ANSWER

When vacancies come up on boards such as the Territory Development Corporation, the government assesses applicants for the particular vacancy and decides at that time who should be appointed to the board. The honourable member's

point has been taken. The government will appoint to its boards persons it feels are best able to contribute to the boards.

Fire Control

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are amendments planned for legislation concerning fire control and prevention?

ANSWER

A total review of fire services legislation is in progress. That will cover all aspects of fire prevention. No amendments to existing legislation are planned because new legislation is being prepared.

Health Department Staff Workloads

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he undertake a review of workloads of his departmental staff as a result of a change in staff functions since the introduction of the new health care arrangements?

ANSWER

I can assure the member that there is a constant review of workloads of people within the department. As the member is aware, there are 3011 people in the Department of Health. Because of its size, it needs constant revision, updating and improvement.

Rumours about Reassignments of Departmental Heads

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that there are rumours circulating around the public service of reassignments of departmental heads. Is he able to inform me if there is any truth in such rumours?

ANSWER

I am surprised to hear of such rumours because, if members care to glance around the Australian scene, they will find that the administrative arrangements under this government - that is, the portfolios allocated to ministers, their length of service and stability in those portfolios and likewise the arrangement of departmental heads and heads of statutory authorities - are as stable as any. In fact they are without question the most stable in Australia. I can say that, certainly at the present time, there is no intention on my part to vary the arrangements regarding departmental heads and heads of statutory authorities whatsoever.

Public Access to Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What access to the Gunn Point area will be allowed to the general public when the forestry reserve is handed over to the prisons by gazettal next week?

ANSWER

The public have never had free and open access to the area north of the prison farm in the past because the roads to the area are fenced. There is an arrangement whereby one must seek permission and obtain a key to go into this area. The road does in fact go through a forestry reserve which is an area where public access was controlled because of the possibility of fires and so on. It was also the access to the Gunn Point Prison Farm.

In looking at this area and making some changes, the government's attitude has been that the maximum possible public access to all recreational areas at

Gunn Point will be allowed. The boundaries of the prison farm will enable roads to be installed that can enable the public to have access to beaches and recreational areas in the vicinity. In some cases, the amendments to the boundaries will provide for roads to be put in where there are none at the present time. This is an important issue. The roads that are there at present are there for specific purposes, such as access to the prison farm, and they are not acceptable, permanent public access points.

We propose to draw up a plan to provide access to all the beaches concerned. There are some very nice beaches at Gunn Point. Also access will be provided to areas such as the Vernon Islands, the mouth of the Adelaide River etc. The public should have access to those places and our proposal is that it shall be under a much better arrangement than existed in the past.

Ward System for Alice Springs Town Council

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does he envisage the introduction of a ward system for the Alice Springs Town Council and, if so, when would he envisage such a system being introduced?

ANSWER

The government does not have any plans to initiate a ward system for local government elections in Alice Springs. Normally these matters would be raised with the government by the corporation itself and then the matter would be examined. As members will be aware, the ward system of election for local government operates in Darwin but the other municipalities elect their aldermen from a single electorate. There are some advantages and disadvantages with such a system. At present, the government has no intention of changing the system that operates in Alice Springs and has received no representations on this matter.

Treatment of Burns at Casuarina Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

During the last sittings of the Assembly, in answer to a question on notice, he said that there were no special facilities for the treatment of burn cases at the Casuarina Hospital. Is it true that such a facility has in fact existed at the hospital for 18 months but that the plumbing that was required has only been connected to it in the last 48 hours?

ANSWER

I will be visiting Casuarina Hospital at lunchtime. I will provide the honourable member with an answer this afternoon.

Water Reticulation in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he able to advise me yet of an overall plan for water reticulation for the rural area and in particular the McMinns Lagoon area?

ANSWER

While there is no current scheme to reticulate water in the McMinns Lagoon area, consideration is being given to the possible improvement of supply to rural consumers. There are numerous issues involved and much more investigation is required before such a policy is finalised. Those investigations are in hand including a ground pollution study which will take approximately 10 months to complete. I shall write to the honourable member with more details.

Sanderson Health Clinic

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it proposed to relocate the Sanderson health clinic? If so, what are the reasons for the relocation and what will be the new location?

ANSWER

There is a definite plan to relocate the Sanderson health clinic in the vicinity of Casuarina shopping centre in Monterey House. Over the road, a new premises is being developed and the department will be taking up floor space for the provision of community health facilities. I believe that the department's 6 dialysis machines will also be operated from there. This will be a new service so far as the northern suburbs are concerned.

The reason for this is that the current Sanderson health centre is not in a suitable geographic position for the people of the northern suburbs. The

honourable member will recall that there was a proposal to build a health centre about 150 yards down the road at Dripstone. It is quite practical and feasible and will offer a better service to all the people of the northern suburbs if the Sanderson and the Dripstone facilities could be located in the one building which is about to be developed.

The most important consideration in the siting of the health centre was really the provision of public transport. An argument has always been put that Dripstone is a good spot to have it because it is central to the people. The map of the northern suburbs shows that Dripstone is on the southern end of the northern suburbs and services a very distinct area. However, the rest of the northern suburbs is devoid of cover and it was felt appropriate that, as the Casuarina shopping centre area was the focal point for the bus terminal and most people conduct their shopping and other activities there, it would also be an appropriate place to put the community health centre.

Mr Speaker, I have been in close contact with the department over this matter for a long period of time. If any member of the Assembly envisages a particular problem with the new proposal, I would be happy to hear from him and discuss the matter in detail. I can assure honourable members that the whole matter has been researched thoroughly and the proposal, in my view, will stand up to just about any scrutiny members may like to give it.

Petrol Sniffing at Papunya

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of any action taken by his department to attempt to alleviate the problem of petrol sniffing at Papunya?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am reminded by the honourable Minister for Community Development that a ministerial statement has been made to the Assembly on this subject. In any event, I would suggest that the question would be better directed to my colleague, the Minister for Community Development, because one would imagine that the problem comes within his area of responsibility.

Mr BELL: Mr Speaker, may I redirect the question to the Minister for Community Development?

ANSWER

It is all a matter of communication. A statement was made on this subject fairly recently and is currently on the Notice Paper. The Department of Health and the Department of Community Development both have a very real interest in the problem of petrol sniffing. How to control, or preferably eliminate, petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities is a very severe and very vexing problem. However, I do not have any specific answers for the honourable member for MacDonnell. He may perhaps write to my colleague and myself seeking a delineation of responsibilities between the Departments of Health and Community Development.

Northern Territory Public Service Superannuation Fund

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has a decision been made yet as to who will manage the Northern Territory Public Service superannuation fund and what the accumulated funds will be used for?

ANSWER

I have in my possession a copy of the Superannuation Bill which I propose to seek the leave of the Assembly to introduce without notice this morning to end speculation in relation to this matter. In fact, the Northern Territory Public Service superannuation scheme will virtually mirror the Commonwealth legislation in that area. The Northern Territory is simply moving to take over

another state-like function, which is the provision of superannuation for its public servants. This superannuation is currently carried by the Commonwealth's superannuation fund.

There will be a board of management of the superannuation fund in much the same way there is a board of management of the Commonwealth fund. I understand the 4-member board of management that Cabinet approved for the Northern Territory fund was to be comprised of the Public Service Commissioner, the Under-Treasurer, a person elected by contributors and a person appointed by the government with investment and financial expertise. However, that is a matter for discussion in this Assembly when the bill comes up for debate. I would not like to foreshadow that too much. This board would be responsible for placing the moneys of the fund in investments of a reputable nature. I imagine there would be some investment in the Northern Territory by the fund. No doubt, a great deal of its investment would be in the normal type of trustee securities. I dare say that the greater proportion of the fund would be invested around Australia.

#### Flooding at Railway Dam

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What action is his department proposing to take to overcome the problem of recent flooding affecting the Railway Dam community in Darwin?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a detailed study of the problem is being carried out by the Department of Lands in conjunction with the Department of Transport and Works. It is one of those cases of omission in that there is no existing easement over the privately-owned property. Of course, it was the activities of the owner of that property which caused the problem. Obviously, the Department of Lands and Housing will have to look at the possibility of acquiring part of the land for an easement should that be necessary. We would certainly seek first to enter into negotiations with the owner of the land to encourage him to provide proper drainage for the area and overcome a problem which I believe he has probably created himself.

#### Carpentaria College Site

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he indicate yet when a development plan for Carpentaria College site will go on public display?

ANSWER

If the honourable member would like to see me when the Assembly rises for lunch, I will have a yarn with her about it then. I have a copy of the plans in my office and will be quite happy to discuss it with her at that time.

#### Kookaburra Aircraft Memorial

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise when the Kookaburra aircraft memorial in Alice Springs will be completed?

ANSWER

The tender for the Kookaburra diorama which is to be erected at the Araluen Foundation site in Alice Springs has been let and construction is about to commence. I have seen the plans of the building; it looks quite attractive. It will be completed by the end of January 1982.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Last night the management of Ranger stated that it could comply with the standards for environmental protection if they were lowered. Is he considering such a lowering of the standards?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. I might add that, since the events of Monday, I have received no communication from the company whatsoever about its intentions?

Nhulunbuy Health Centre

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will there be any further transfer of services from the Nhulunbuy Health Centre to the Gove District Hospital?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that question off the top of my head. If he would give me an hour's notice of such questions, I might be able to answer them at question time.

Sadadeen Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he give an assurance that the Sadadeen Primary School will be ready for occupation in April 1982 as he indicated in the August sittings?

ANSWER

On my advice from the contracting company, the core of the primary school will certainly be available probably for the beginning of the school year, certainly in April at the latest. The stage 2 development will probably be available for occupation in about June.

Consumer Affairs Council

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the reason for appointing only 7 members to the incoming Consumer Affairs Council whereas the outgoing Consumer Affairs Council consisted of 10 members?

ANSWER

The Consumer Affairs Act provides discretion for a range of members to be appointed to the Consumer Affairs Council. I cannot think of the exact numbers. I think the minimum is 6 and the maximum is 12. All positions expired fairly recently and it was sought to restructure the council, as the government has done with a number of boards in the Northern Territory, to give additional people the opportunity to contribute to government input. All major centres - Nhulunbuy, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek - are represented on the board and people from various backgrounds and interests are represented. I believe that such a board should have such representation in its advice to government. I think that the board of 7 can work very well.

Weeds in Inland Waterways

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What is being done about the existing and potential weed problem in inland waterways which is affecting fish? Will steps be taken to eradicate water weeds?

ANSWER

I circulated a paper on weeds some months ago. It certainly is a vexing question that the department has to contend with. I do not believe there is enough money in Australia to deal adequately with the weed problem. There are far-flung rivers in the Northern Territory that have weeds by the thousand acres. I guess his question comes back to what is being done about the weeds in respect of fisheries. I am unaware of any controlled fisheries that have a weed problem. Certainly, we are aware of several infestations of weeds that are causing us some concern and we are attempting to deal with those problems.

Humpty Doo High School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What stage of development has been reached in the building of the high school at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works has let selected contracts in order to produce results quicker than would normally occur by the normal tendering process. That work is currently under way and it is anticipated that the first set of classrooms and specialist facilities for that high school will be available by the beginning of 1983. The scope of the project is such as to provide for a specialist block, 4 classrooms and the administration block in stage one. That should be finished by January or February of 1983.

Henbury Avenue Special School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will the sad saga of the Henbury Avenue Special School be concluded satisfactorily by the beginning of the 1982 school year?

ANSWER

As I have previously indicated in the Assembly, I wish I could give assurances on what the Leader of the Opposition quite rightly describes as a 'sad saga'. The contractors indicated that it should be completed by November this year. Giving them another 3 months after that, one would hope that it would be ready by the beginning of the next school year.

Winton to Boulia Road

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise if he has yet had a reply from the Queensland Minister responsible for main roads about the unsealed 88 km section of the Winton to Boulia Road? The sealing of this section would be of great benefit to the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. I wrote to the honourable Russ Hinze, Minister for Main Roads in Queensland, in September. To date, I have not had a reply but we are pursuing the matter.

Out-of-turn Housing Allocations

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the government's attitude to the establishment of an appeal system for those applicants who have been refused out-of-turn allocation by the Housing Commission and who still consider their situation warrants further action?

ANSWER

There are appellants in this country who go all the way through to the equivalent of our High Court and still believe that they are entitled to further hearings. One can understand that. It is not the intention of the government to introduce any such further appeal system. We believe that the system at present is equitable and we believe that it would be an unnecessary burden to go any further.

Sadadeen Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What provision has been made to house students of Sadadeen Primary School until the school opens?

ANSWER

The member would be aware that the subdivisions which gave rise to the original fear that Ross Park Primary would be grossly overcrowded by this year and certainly next year do not appear to be coming to pass. Indeed, there are no new homes as yet in the Sadadeen stage 1 and 2 subdivision. There will be no overcrowding at all during this school year and it is doubtful that there will be significant overcrowding next year. It is not envisaged at this stage that there will be a problem. If there is a problem, it will be a temporary one, perhaps 3 or 4 months. In that case, it may be necessary to provide 1 additional mobile classroom. Certainly, we will not put in demountables because these tend to become permanent.

Future Management of Northern Territory Hostels

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What arrangements have been made for the future management of those Northern Territory hostels currently managed by the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service which the federal government has announced is to cease operation and for which the management contracts are due to run out shortly?

ANSWER

As members will be aware, the decision of the Commonwealth was taken quite unilaterally - as were all decisions pursuant to the Razor Gang recommendations announced by the Prime Minister which have caused governments around this country difficulties - and has caused this government considerable difficulty. There is a contingency plan and there is no point in going into it at this stage. The Chief Minister has been communicating with the Prime Minister to try to clarify the federal government's role. We believe this precipitous withdrawal is quite unfair to us and we certainly want some further lead time in order to handle this matter properly. If the answer from the federal government is in the negative, then I would be happy to advise the Assembly at a later stage of what we propose.

Future Use of Bagot Park Area

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a decision been made on the future use of the Bagot Park Speedway area?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, no future use has been finally determined by the city council. The area is vested in the care and control of the Darwin city council. Whilst I am aware of 1 or 2 recreational and sporting groups which have approached the council with a view to taking over the Bagot Park area for their own uses after the speedway moves, I am not aware that the council has as yet made any decision on the matter. Certainly, I think it is one that the council should resolve fairly quickly so that the various groups can get on with planning.

Hospital at Jabiru

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true, as many residents of Jabiru appear to think it is, that the hospital being constructed at Jabiru will not be opened as a hospital and people requiring hospitalisation from Jabiru will be sent to Casuarina?

ANSWER

Let there be no doubt in anybody's mind that the hospital at Jabiru cannot be all things to all people. There will certainly be people coming from Jabiru to Darwin for certain forms of treatment, just as people from Tennant Creek, Katherine, Gove and Groote Eylandt go to the larger centres for certain treatment. It is not true to say that the hospital will not open as a hospital. It will. The functions that will be carried out in the hospital are yet to be determined. I might add that there is still some dispute between the Commonwealth and ourselves over funding levels for the hospital. That is really an internal matter that has to be sorted out. As soon as these things are resolved, we will get on with the business of running the hospital.

New Cell Blocks at Berrimah Prison

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current development stage of the new cell blocks at Berrimah Prison?

ANSWER

The accommodation at Berrimah Prison will be expanded quite significantly shortly. Accommodation for another 40 prisoners has been planned and I think I advised the Assembly earlier this year that arrangements had been made for this accommodation to be installed. It is hoped that by mid-December this year units will be completed to accommodate a further 40 prisoners, bringing the total Berrimah single-cell accommodation to 150. The government has also approved the creation of 9 additional positions of prison officer to cater for the increase in accommodation at Berrimah. Hopefully, for a period to time, this will give reasonably adequate accommodation for prisoners in Darwin. In the past, there have been times when the prisoner accommodation at Berrimah has been over the maximum that the facility was designed for. However, hopefully that situation will not arise very often in the future.

Channel Island Power-Station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the progress of site investigations in respect of the proposed Channel Island power-station?

ANSWER

There are people doing preliminary survey work on the Channel Island site at the moment. I cannot tell the honourable member the degree of work that has been done. If she is keen to know exactly what has been done, I can undertake to get a list of all the things that have been completed and provide them later in the sittings.

Public Access to Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

When a management plan for the recreational use of the Gunn Point area is finally prepared and accepted by the government, who will have the administration of access? Will it be the Conservation Commission or prison staff?

ANSWER

An acceptable management plan has not yet been prepared. A draft management plan has been prepared which was rather grandiose. I referred it back to the Conservation Commission with a few suggestions because I believe that it is a passive recreation area rather than an active one. In my view, there are no particular natural features at Gunn Point which would justify creating a national park in that area. I believe that the area should be open to and available for recreational purposes by the people of the city of Darwin and its environs. The people of Darwin unfortunately lack areas to which they may repair for recreation. When Gunn Point is developed to the extent of access roads to the beaches and to a creek - I think we might be proposing to put in a boat ramp - then I believe it will provide a most attractive feature in this part of the world.

I might say also that discussions are being held between the Conservation Commission and the Department of Lands and Housing in relation to other recreational activities. I believe that the Minister for Lands and Housing will be meeting a group of people in Alice Springs in the course of the next week or 2 to discuss further provisions that may be afforded in the regrettably rather tight situation that the Northern Territory finds itself in in relation to areas of general recreation.

Jervois and Mollie Hill

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when medical facilities may be provided to the Jervois and Mollie Hill mining communities in central Australia?

ANSWER

The department has a role of providing services to people in remote areas. I am not aware of the exact level of service that will be provided to the communities at Jervois and Mollie Hill. I believe that there are about 130 people in these places and, at one particular site, there is already a nursing sister. The degree of service that we would provide and the level that the communities expect is something that really should be taken up by the company with the department. We do not have an automatic obligation to follow every community that pops up in the Northern Territory with fully fledged community health centres and hospitals. In this particular case, there would be some expectation that the company would do something to help itself. We would try to provide the level of service that is satisfactory to the communities.

Phosphate Deposits at Batchelor

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Considering the increased and still rising cost of superphosphate, will he further investigate the potential of known phosphate deposits in the Batchelor area so that Territory producers will be able to supplement imported fertilisers with a Territory product?

ANSWER

The question of fertiliser and phosphate at Batchelor has been under consideration for quite some considerable time. I recall that the department did tests on the product from that area about 2 years ago. The results were fairly inconclusive. I seem to recall that the product is unsuitable without considerable treatment. If the honourable member has any new information, we would be pleased to take the matter up again.

Nhulunbuy Community Library

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the Department of Education's assessment of the new community library in Nhulunbuy as an educational facility?

ANSWER

Yes.

Shopping Complex in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of any proposal to site a shopping complex on the existing city council car-park next door to Woolworths?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any such proposal. I will certainly have the matter investigated and inform him later.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it true that if the environmental regulations at Ranger were complied with by the company - that is, to have 2 metres of water over the top of the tailings - that body of water could not reasonably fit into the tailings dam as it is presently constructed?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that but I give him an undertaking that his question will be addressed in the report that is being prepared by the department.

Stott Terrace Connector Road

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that reconstruction of Undoolya Road will be very inconvenient and possibly quite dangerous without the detour that could be provided by the arterial connector road from Stott Terrace bridge? When can we expect some action on this connector road?

ANSWER

I understand that plans are well advanced for the design of the new connector road leading off the Stott Terrace bridge. I have spoken previously about the difficulties that we have had on this matter and there is no point elaborating on those. As a result of a new route having been found, extensive redesign is necessary and we would hope that this is done within the next couple of months. I certainly agree with the member that the reconstruction of Undoolya Road will cause inconvenience. I would not necessarily accept that it will cause a dangerous situation. Obviously, when reconstruction of that nature takes place, certain traffic control measures are taken such as greatly reducing the speed limit. I suppose it is also true to say that any reconstruction of an arterial road causes inconvenience. I think anyone who chooses to come via the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway intersection would agree. Nonetheless, a temporary inconvenience is often worth while for the benefit of the longer term traffic flow.

National Estate Grant for the Encouragement of Bark Painting

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he taken any action in respect of a National Estate grant from the federal government for the encouragement of bark painting in the Top End?

ANSWER

I have no details with me on this matter and I suggest the member place the question on notice. We receive a number of specific purpose grants from the Commonwealth which we administer through our own arts and heritage authorities. The one the member specifically mentioned does not come to mind and I will have the matter followed up.

Feral Buffalo and Cattle in Kakadu National Park

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Because the Conservation Commission falls within the portfolio of the Chief Minister and because of his liaison capabilities with his federal counterpart who has the responsibility for the administration of Kakadu National Park, does he know the plans for disposal of feral buffalo and feral cattle in the park during this Wet?

ANSWER

The member for Tiwi makes a few assumptions in asking that question. She assumes that I have a capacity for liaison with my federal counterpart in this particular area of national parks. Actually, I have a very limited capacity for liaison with that gentleman because he comes to the Northern Territory and avoids me like the plague despite invitations to meet me on several occasions. In this Assembly, we should adopt the policy of answering questions relating to our particular responsibilities. Quite obviously, Kakadu National Park is not, at this stage, a direct responsibility of the Northern Territory government but it is certainly an area of responsibility that the Northern Territory seeks. I am sure, in due course, by arrangement with the Aboriginal people of the area and with the federal government, our aspirations will be met even though the road may be rocky and long. I have caused a telephone call to be made to the ANPWS and I am informed that not a great deal of culling goes on during the wet season. If the member for Tiwi would like to make a similar telephone call, she will be given full particulars.

Licensing of Insurance and Mortgage Brokers

Mrs O'NEIL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

There has been wide discussion in Australia recently on the desirability of licensing insurance and mortgage brokers. I think this follows a recommendation of the Law Reform Commission. Is consideration being given to such action in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I understand that the Treasurer is involved in the process of formulating legislation in relation to the registration of insurance brokers. It apparently falls within his area of responsibility and he may be able to give the honourable member for Fannie Bay more details on the matter than I can.

Mrs O'Neil: Mr Speaker, may I redirect the question to the honourable Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Development?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it is suffice to say that the government is examining the matter of the reasonableness of introducing legislation to license and control insurance brokers in the Northern Territory. The relevant government officers held talks with various arms of the insurance industry on the matter and I believe that a Cabinet submission may be ready for consideration in the near future.

Shopping Complex in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of any proposal to site a shopping complex on the existing city council car-park, next to Woolworths in Cavenagh Street?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, when I heard the member for Port Darwin address his question regarding a shopping complex to the Minister for Lands and Housing I mentioned to him that the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Darwin telephoned me yesterday to say that he has a proposal in relation to a department store. From memory, it is to be erected on that car-park in Cavenagh Street next to Woolworths. He said that he would send me a copy of this proposal which he had received from certain people who apparently want to build the department store and run it. I thanked him and said I would look forward to receiving it. That was about the sum total of the conversation. I do not have any precise details at this stage, but there certainly is a project in the air which may result. That is all I can say. The Lord Mayor made it quite clear that there is no commitment on the part of the council to the project at this stage; it is merely a proposal that he has received in his capacity as Lord Mayor. I suppose he gets plenty every week, as I do, for turning water into gold and things like that, and seeking finance to that end. No doubt it will be considered by the council and, if there is any assistance that is needed by it from the Territory government then I am sure - if the proposal is a worthwhile one, and on the face of it one would think that Darwin could well use a department store having reached this stage of its growth and progress - then the Territory government would assist in whatever reasonable way it could.

Reef Fish and Mackerel Fishing

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What investigations have been undertaken into reef fish and mackerel fishing and are Northern Territory waters suitable for the introduction of mackerel and the subsequent catch?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has spent quite a bit of money looking at the potential of reef fish and mackerel fishing to enable diversification away from the barramundi fishery. The results to date have been quite inconclusive. The fishery itself is obviously not strong enough. More work is required before I can advise the member further.

Stott Terrace to Undoolya Connector Road

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he give an estimate of how long it will take to build the Stott Terrace to Undoolya connector road once the tender has been accepted?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the member but will seek information and provide it to him at a later hour.

Liquor Advertising

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has he undertaken any consultation with the alcohol industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

ANSWER

The short answer is no, not because I am not interested, but because the control of advertising for the alcohol industry, as with most other industries, is outside the prerogatives and responsibilities of the Northern Territory government. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that the alcohol industry is in no doubt about my attitude towards the excessive consumption of alcohol in the Territory. However, the government cannot control the levels and methods of advertising.

Traffic Lights at McMillans Road-Stuart Highway Intersection

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the importance of the intersection of McMillans Road and the Stuart Highway, when will the traffic lights there be in operation again as they have not been operating for 3 days.

ANSWER

The member has just made me aware of the problem at that intersection. I will have the department remedy this situation as soon as possible.

Review of Staffing at Casuarina Hospital

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Following the review of staffing undertaken at the Casuarina Hospital, in which areas have there been found to be shortages?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the member off the top of my head. I can advise him the review was carried out in no less than 17 or 19 sections of the hospital. It affected everybody from the medical superintendent all the way down the scale. I will undertake to get an answer for the member and advise him later of the complete review.

Draft Planning Instrument for Brinkin Area

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Would he consider extending to 90 days the display period for the draft planning instrument for the Brinkin area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have already issued instructions to the person holding my delegation under the Planning Act that the display period in this instance be extended to 90 days. By your leave, Sir, I might take the opportunity to make a couple of comments on the petition which has just been tabled as it is within this context. The government, of course, notes that particular petition, but I would like to point out that there has never been R1 zoning in that area; in fact, it was previously zoned 'future uses'.

National Park at Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it the intention of the government to declare a national park on Tempe Downs in the vicinity of Kings Canyon and, if so, what consideration is being given to the traditional associations of the Kultitja, Murrathurra, the Luritja and Pitjantjatjara in that area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question would probably be better addressed to the Chief Minister as minister responsible for national parks and for the Conservation Commission. It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to establish a significant national park in that area. Needless to say the Conservation Commission has a consistent policy in areas where Aboriginal people have an association to try to involve them to the maximum extent not only in the running but also the planning of such a national park. However, the question should be answered in a fuller sense by my colleague.

Driving Licences for 16-year-olds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the minister considered the subject of issuing driving licences to 16-year-olds in certain circumstances and, if so, can he outline his plans on the matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received several representations on this subject, including a couple from the honourable member herself, and can inform the Assembly that the problem is receiving consideration at the national level. The Australian Transport Advisory Council is considering the question of a minimum licensing age as part of a general review of licensing of drivers in Australia. The Commonwealth Office of Road Safety has reported possible advantages in making restricted licences available to 16-year-olds. The Commonwealth House of Representatives Standing Committee on Road Safety is also in the process of reporting on driver education, training, and licensing. I shall have the progress of these studies monitored and, should it appear that there is additional support for allowing 16-year-olds some form of licence, I will have the appropriate legislation prepared for consideration by this Assembly.

Assembly Sittings in 1982

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister consider asking yourself, Sir, to increase the frequency of sittings in 1982?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I noted the comments of the Leader of the Opposition last week in relation to the frequency and duration of sittings of the Assembly. It was certainly as gladdening to my ear as it must have been saddening to some of the journalists in the box, who have been bleating about the need for more frequent and longer sittings, to hear the Leader of the Opposition state that this Assembly certainly sat for long enough to transact its business. As every honourable member knows, the Assembly can sit as long as it needs to transact its business. I thought the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition was a good one. I have asked for a paper to be prepared for discussion in Cabinet and the preparation of suggestions to you, Sir. As a preliminary thought on the matter, perhaps we could split the proposed November sittings next year into 2 sittings of 1 week each to meet the requirements of the member for Fannie Bay who complained last week that the budget sat around for too long to be debated. We could have a 1-week sittings in September or October and then have a 1-week sittings in November. This would suit not only the Deputy Leader of the Opposition but my colleague the Treasurer who is a bit like a mother hen until the budget has been passed. It would kill 2 birds with one stone.

International Year of the Disabled Person

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following completion of the International Year of the Disabled Person how will continued government support of the principles of that year be manifested in 1982?

ANSWER

I have a Cabinet submission on this subject. It addresses the various options which are open to government in the period following the International Year of the Disabled Person. My department has had a look at the various options open within the policy of government and I hope to make an announcement shortly.

Nomad Aircraft

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Recently, he announced that there would be a review of the use of Nomad aircraft in the Aerial Medical Service. Has the review been concluded and, if so, what is the outcome?

ANSWER

The review is complete and is being assessed by the department. I have not read the review myself but, as soon as the department's comments on it are complete, I will read the review and the comments so that we can look at the future of aircraft for the Aerial Medical Service.

Financial Assistance to Barramundi Fishermen

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has he, through the Treasurer, made an application to the Commonwealth for special funds to assist Northern Territory barramundi fishermen to transfer out of that section of the fishing industry, bearing in mind that a barramundi boat cannot be used effectively for any other kind of fishing?

ANSWER

Like all the states, the Northern Territory was party to a submission to establish a rural adjustment scheme for fishermen. At a meeting held earlier this year in Melbourne, the Northern Territory still subscribed to the Commonwealth's wish that that scheme be implemented. Most of the states backed out

because the Commonwealth refused to put up the money. That is not to say that the Northern Territory government will not pursue it over the coming weeks.

Land for Agricultural Development and Marketing Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it the intention of government to obtain more land for the ADMA scheme by compulsory acquisition?

ANSWER

The government is certainly desirous of obtaining more land for agricultural development. Agricultural development in the Northern Territory cannot proceed past its present point unless further land is obtained. The Northern Territory government is seriously considering the ways and means available to it to obtain the land necessary to implement stage 1 of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Scheme.

TB-infected Feral Animals

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Do tuberculosis-infected feral animals present a serious obstacle to the eradication of the disease in cattle?

ANSWER

Significant levels of tuberculosis in feral animals are confined to buffalo and pigs. TB in buffalo is a major problem. It can only be overcome by using the control measures effective in cattle. Those measures include intensive testing, the culling of reactors and the destocking of animals which cannot be mustered. TB in feral pigs appears to be less of a problem than it is in buffalo. Experiments are being carried out at the Berrimah research station where pigs that are heavily infected by TB are deliberately run with TB-free buffalo. The pigs do not appear to transmit TB to cattle. The trials are continuing and, if the situation is confirmed, we could then say that the infected feral pigs do not represent a disease hazard to buffalo and cattle which are free of tuberculosis.

Southern Treatment for Juvenile Psychiatric Cases

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are available for juveniles receiving psychiatric treatment to be transferred to southern cities for the purpose of long-term care and management in institutions which are specifically equipped to handle such cases?

ANSWER

The department has long-term arrangements with the South Australian government for the treatment of people who need psychiatric care. The decision to send people to South Australia is taken on medical grounds only. The cost to the Northern Territory is quite high but it is our responsibility and we meet it. As the honourable member is aware, with our small population, it is not possible to have a psychiatric unit that provides all services for all persons. For that reason, we will always have to send some people interstate, which is regrettable. Nevertheless, if the member has a particular case that she would like to raise confidentially with the department, I would be happy to have the matter taken up on her behalf.

International Year of the Tree

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

He is doubtless aware that, to many people's delight, next year is the International Year of the Tree. Would he indicate what special funding, if

any, is being made to any organisations to promulgate the International Year of the Tree?

ANSWER

The subject of trees, their preservation, conservation or eradication does not fall within my portfolio areas. The Treasury looks after funding right across the board, so I do not have the information in front of me. Perhaps she should redirect the question.

International Year of the Tree

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I redirect my question to the Chief Minister.

ANSWER

I am delighted to hear from the member that next year is the International Year of the Tree. It is a subject that is very dear to my heart. I was disappointed when I heard some weeks ago on the ABC that next year was to be the International Year of the Mother-in-Law to improve the status throughout the world of mothers-in-law. This was reported in quite a serious manner. It seems to me that mothers-in-law are there and there is not a great deal that we can do. I think they will always be the butt of some jokes from sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. As I say, I am delighted that it is to be trees rather than mothers-in-law. I am quite sure that the Conservation Commission will gear itself up to mounting a massive program on educating people on the benefits and advantages of trees. As you know, Mr Speaker, in the Northern Territory, forestry is a purely conservation function and there is virtually no exploitation of trees except for round pole houses and fences. I would say that we are already planting more trees each year than we are destroying. That is as it should be and it is a shame that it cannot be said for other areas of the world. In some countries, unfortunately, all the trees have been felled and the countryside is bare. I hope that next year will be one in which many more people in the community will become aware of the importance of trees to the environment.

Alice Springs Rifle Range

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a decision been made on the relocation of the Alice Springs rifle range?

ANSWER

No.

Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the fact that the Ranger Mines Environmental Impact Statement and the Fox Report both recommended that the coverage of tailings should be between 2 metres and 3.5 metres of water, why were those standards lowered?

ANSWER

Without referring to the 2 inquiries to which the honourable member just alluded, I would say that the requirement by the Supervising Scientist so far as the coverage of the tailings in the dam is concerned has always been that they be kept under water. The company's proposition in its application for its authorisation was to keep the tailings under 2 metres of water and that was agreed to. The company applied subsequently to have its authorisation varied and the Supervising Scientist, the NLC and the technical people in my department agreed to the variation. That is why it was allowed to have the variation.

Bagot Park Speedway Area

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

What steps will he take to ensure that the people of Millner are consulted about the future use of the Bagot Park Speedway area?

ANSWER

It is difficult to answer the question because it is a matter for the Corporation of the City of Darwin. I would ask that the honourable member request information from the city council regarding its future proposal for that area.

Red Milfoil in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Could the minister advise what action has been taken to counter the outbreak of red milfoil which has been discovered in the water system of the Alice Springs Casino?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production and the Conservation Commission are working closely to contain the outbreak of red milfoil at the Alice Springs Casino. It is an indigenous water weed that is spread by birds throughout Australia. It has been found in the Finke and Hugh Rivers and the Barkly Tableland. Recommended treatment is with diquat at 2.5 mls per cubic metre of water. The water should not be used for irrigation for 10 days after treatment because diquat is toxic to fish. The casino has been advised to treat its reservoir, according to instructions, with diquat. For the 10-day holding period it should water its lawns directly from the bore.

Howard Springs Primary School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans are there to control the expected overcrowding at Howard Springs Primary School next year?

ANSWER

It is true that there is a possibility that the number of students at Howard Springs Primary School will exceed the design capacity of that school pending the opening of the Humpty Doo Primary School in the second semester of 1982. I am informed that the principal is of the view that he can cope with expected student numbers. If it is subsequently found that he is unable to do so, a similar set of circumstances would arise to those which occurred at the Ross Park Primary School in Alice Springs. We would probably provide a mobile classroom as a short-term measure. Again, it would not be one of the so-called demountables or transportables which tend to become permanent, but something that is strictly of a temporary nature to overcome the peak period which may occur some time next year or perhaps even in the first semester of 1983.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What progress has been made towards the acceptance by the government of a management plan for the East Point Reserve and adjacent areas of land?

ANSWER

I have not been involved directly in any plan of management in respect of East Point since I left the portfolio of Minister of Community Development. It certainly is not a lands function. The Lands Department would become involved in it if it required a variation of zoning or a variation of boundaries. I know

of no further development since that time. The honourable member for Nightcliff has recently written to me on the proposal of the lakes project which adjoins the East Point Reserve. In that context, it would be true to say that the East Point Trustees would be of the view that they do not need the private development proposal in terms of their own development plan. Certainly, it would be true that the developers would need the cooperation of the East Point Trustees. It is not a matter directly related to my portfolio. I would assume that the present Minister for Community Development would be the right person to put the question to.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I redirect my question regarding management plans for East Point Reserve to the Minister for Community Development.

ANSWER

I do not recall all of the honourable member's original question. The East Point Reserves Board, under a statute of this Assembly, has responsibility for the management of East Point at the present time and has had for a number of years. The East Point Reserve Trustees have engaged consultants in the past and have completed a fairly extensive report on the future of East Point and there are other parties interested in this subject. The city council have always taken an interest in East Point and its future. As the honourable Minister for Lands indicated, there is also a private proposal for the area which bears to some degree on the periphery of East Point. The Department of Community Development is preparing a submission on the subject for me taking into account the views of all parties concerned so that we can make a decision on the future of East Point. There are a number of matters unresolved at present and the government has received applications from groups in the community, not just to use some of the existing facilities at East Point, but to take some form of tenure over some of them for their own purposes. These matters are quite serious, of course, and will need to be addressed when looking at the entire future of East Point. I hope that, during the course of the next 6 months to a year, we can completely resolve the matter.

Billing of Outpatients in Remote Townships

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he recommend a system of bulk-billing for outpatients at hospitals and medical centres in remote townships which have no medical insurance office?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, the issue of bulk-billing is not one that can be resolved by the Northern Territory alone. It relates to Commonwealth law and its control over medical benefits funds. I am more than happy to consider the issue of bulk-billing and outpatients. In fact, I am not at all pleased with the operation of the funds in the Northern Territory at the moment. Most of the funds have set up facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs but Gove, Tennant Creek and Katherine are not suitably serviced by the facilities of the funds. In some cases, the funds are happy to collect revenue for contributions locally but insist on the processing of claims being done in places thousands of miles away. I wrote to the funds on this particular issue and did not get any joy. I will take one further step to try to break the nexus; that is, to offer to any fund which is prepared to set up contribution and payout facilities in every town of the Northern Territory space in our hospitals to provide its facilities. People who go to Outpatients could then get their accounts and walk over to a teller and obtain refunds. The funds are pretty competitive amongst themselves and I think they will not warm to this but, if we can get one of them to break ranks, it will be to the advantage of all citizens of the Northern Territory.

National Park at Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to declare a national park on Tempe Downs in the vicinity of Kings Canyon and, if so, what consideration is being given to the traditional associations of the Kultitja, the Murrathurra, the Luritja and the Pitjantjatjarra in that area?

ANSWER

The Conservation Commission has been negotiating now for more than 10 years, I believe, with owners of Tempe Downs Station to acquire, by purchase or otherwise, an area of land surrounding Kings Canyon. Having seen it, I believe it to be one of the outstanding natural features of the Northern Territory. As well, there is unique vegetation and other features in the area which deserve preservation. At present, there is absolutely no protection afforded, in any statutory sense, to the Kings Canyon area. I think that the Conservation Commission has been very forbearing in the length of time that it has taken on these negotiations with the various owners. In any event, the matter is now drawing to a head, and it has been indicated to the owners of Tempe Downs that, unless they are prepared to negotiate expeditiously a reasonable price for the sale of the area to the Conservation Commission, then acquisition action will have to be taken. As the Minister for Lands and Housing indicated in his answer earlier, which I thought was more than sufficient to cover the question asked by the member for MacDonnell, the Conservation Commission will be taking into account the interests of people traditionally connected with the area. I would think that the declaration of a national park is one of the best ways of protecting their interests. It would certainly seem to me to be, from their point of view, a situation superior to the present situation whereby it is part of a pastoral property.

Channel Island Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that agencies acting on behalf of the Commonwealth government have suggested that, in view of Darwin's reduced rate of growth, the construction of the proposed Channel Island Power-station be deferred?

ANSWER

Not to me, Mr Speaker.

Aboriginal Development Commission Headquarters

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Is the Chief Minister aware of the need at Numbulwar for houses and cyclone shelters? Will he bring this need to the attention of the chairman of the Aboriginal Development Commission which recently purchased a building for \$4m for its headquarters?

ANSWER

Throughout the Northern Territory, additional facilities are needed in various communities. I was intrigued at the question from the honourable member for Sanderson who indicated that, according to her, the growth of Darwin had slowed and the new power-station is not to be constructed. I found that rather extraordinary in view of the fact that subdividers are beating my door down trying to get into Palmerston. It seems that, despite what papers say, the growth situation in Darwin is evidenced very strongly by the fact that people want to put their money where their mouth is and carve up more land out there to sell to the people whom the honourable member for Sanderson says do not exist. I take the point that the Aboriginal Development Commission has purchased a building for its headquarters. I imagine that would be well within the legitimate power

of the commission. Allocation of its funds is a matter for the commission to decide on and I would imagine that, as the commission has to account to the Aboriginal people in due course, it would have considered whether it would have a headquarters building as an investment or provide additional facilities to remote communities. No doubt, the people of Numbulwar and other communities will ask the commission the basis on which it makes decisions on priorities.

Export of Horticultural Crops

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What produce is included in the government's scheme for the development of a small but highly profitable export of certain horticultural crops from the Northern Territory to South-east Asia?

ANSWER

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority is mainly concentrating its marketing efforts on mangoes and rock-melons at present. We sent some cartons there and the attitude towards the produce was interesting. In fact, it was demonstrated to us very clearly that the product currently being grown here is not exactly what the market wants. The market is looking for a smaller and sweeter rock-melon than we currently provide. The mangoes had a fairly mixed reception. I think the experience in testing the market the way we did will augur very well for the future of horticultural development in the Territory.

Juvenile Crime

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he received any evidence connecting school truancy with juvenile crime, especially house-breaking?

ANSWER

I certainly have not received any firm evidence connecting school truancy with juvenile crime, especially house-breaking, but the member has asked an interesting question. I am told by the police that no precise figures are kept but, on their experience rather than any empirical basis, they estimate that the percentage of juvenile crime connected with school truancy could be in the order of 30%. Obviously, it would be in the interests of the community to minimise truancy.

Burn Cases at Casuarina Hospital

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Further to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition regarding a special burns facility at Casuarina Hospital and the minister's subsequent visit to the hospital, can he now inform the Assembly whether or not Ward 2B is used to hold patients who are suffering from methycillin staph resistant infections? If this is in fact the case, does it mean that burns patients do not have access to the special burns facilities in that ward because of the danger of such infections to them?

ANSWER

In response to a question on notice asked by the Leader of the Opposition, I was advised that listed on the 1981-82 minor new works program is a special burns bath for installation in Ward 2B at Casuarina Hospital. Burns patients are nursed in protective isolation in single rooms in the surgical ward and are bathed in bed or, until recently, in a bath kept solely for burns patients. Work has been completed on the installation of the burns bath and it became operational about a fortnight ago. This piece of equipment has been at the hospital since October last year but had not been installed until recently because of unresolved medical considerations as to whether the equipment was

appropriate and where it should be located. I must stress, however, that, in the interim, burns patients have had exclusive use of alternative, satisfactory, bathing facilities. The matter of bathing for burns patients is, in medical terms, quite complex and I would be happy for members to be briefed by the doctors who are involved in the exercise so that they can get a better understanding. I leave that invitation open to them.

Board Controlling Satellite Communication

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he had any indication whether or not it is possible for the Northern Territory to be represented on the board controlling Australian satellite communications?

ANSWER

Through the office of the Co-ordinator General, I have been monitoring the domestic satellite program and, where information can be obtained, we are getting it. In fact, only about a month ago, the Northern Territory government sent 2 officials to represent it at a conference in Canberra of proposed users of the domestic satellite. The Northern Territory officers put the Territory view that there must be adequate consideration for people in remote areas for educational programs and the like. It is the Northern Territory attitude that we do not want to see the domestic satellite monopolised by commercial interests. I think there is little danger of that but, unfortunately, the Minister for Communications announced the board that will control the operations of this domestic satellite some 2 or 3 weeks ago. To the best of my knowledge, the Northern Territory was not consulted beforehand - at least I do not think I was - and so far as I can recall I was not asked to nominate anyone to this board. I think it would be fruitless to take the matter of a nomination up at this stage because these people have been so recently appointed, but honourable members may rest assured that I will do my very best to get representation for the Northern Territory on this board as vacancies occur. I will be writing to the Minister for Communications in that regard. Mr Speaker, as you know because the lady in question resides in your electorate, the Northern Territory has been fortunate since the advent of self-government in gaining direct representation on the ABC in the person of Commissioner Val Michell, and it is the objective of the Northern Territory government to see that the Territory's interests, wherever possible, are represented on national boards of this nature. That policy will be maintained.

Enrolments at Aboriginal Teacher Training Centre

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The number of applications for places in the Aboriginal Teacher Training Centre at Batchelor have dropped from 120 this year to 46 for the 1982 school year. Has this been caused by the non-replacement of Aboriginal trainee teachers in schools?

ANSWER

The honourable member asks me for information which I could not possibly have; he would have to ask the people who have not turned up. I would be happy to undertake an investigation of the matter and write to him in due course.

New Health Care Program for Aboriginals

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to his press release of 7 October regarding his department's new Aboriginal health care program. What consultation with Aboriginal health workers and their communities did his department undertake before announcing the new policy on the Aboriginalisation of health centres?

ANSWER

As I outlined to the Assembly last week, the policy ultimately to hand over health facilities in communities to Aboriginal health workers was established in 1975. The announcement that the honourable member refers to relates to the next step in that policy: to break the nexus and move out the European staff who have been present for some time. As I also mentioned the other day, the degree of consultation necessary to achieve this will be very great. It is not just a matter of abandonment on the part of the government to achieve its policy; it is really a matter of negotiating with the community concerned how, where and when to achieve the objective. As the honourable member is aware, there are some communities in the Northern Territory which do not wish to see their European sisters go away from their community. There are other areas where the community is happy for the transfer of power to be accomplished as early as possible.

The honourable member for Tiwi mentioned the other day the concern of her constituents at Garden Point. They raised the legal issues that relate to the removal of the European sister and the responsibilities placed on the Aboriginal health workers. All of these things have to be worked out between the department and the community. If the honourable member knows of any particular problems that confront us in this exercise, I would be more than happy to take the matter up with him. If he believes that adequate consultation and negotiation are not taking place, I would be keen to hear from him on that matter. The exercise is a transfer of power in an orderly manner and at the rate at which a local community wants it and is prepared to receive it.

Section 21 of Education Act

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many parents have been prosecuted this year under section 21 of the Education Act?

ANSWER

By the tone of the question, I assume it refers to that section which relates to prosecutions for non-attendance of children at schools. The answer is none.

Control of Fisheries

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

He made a statement last week that the Northern Territory was not able to control fisheries outside the 3-mile limit. The Fisheries Act, as amended in 1978, provides for this to happen. Mechanisms were provided for the Commonwealth and states to consult and agree on the management of a particular fishery irrespective of whether or not the fishery is within or beyond the 3-mile limit. Given that this is a fact, will he ensure that this agreement is sought so that a greater return from this Territory source can flow to the Territory?

ANSWER

I also stated at the time that a joint decision would have to be taken by the Territory, Queensland, Western Australia and the Commonwealth. The honourable member is losing sight of the fact that the Northern Territory has fought for fisheries over a number of years. In fact, we fought for fisheries west of the Wessels to be for Northern Territory fishermen only. We fought against the increase of the number of boats in the fishery. We fought against the subsidies allowed to shipbuilders to go on and on. If the honourable member thinks that we are walking away from looking after the rights of Territorians, I guess he is wrong. Again, the public could be misled by the NT News of yesterday. It is unfortunate that we have to keep slicing up the News for its misleading headlines. The headline is 'Fishing Not a Federal Matter Says Kerin'. Obviously, Mr Kerin's

positive commentary and contribution to debate is likely to have a non-positive effect on people who read the newspaper. I think that people should be aware of that.

NTDC Action on Loans Recovery

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In June of this year, he said in reply to a question on notice that the Northern Territory Development Corporation was taking follow-up and review action on drought relief, flood relief, Primary Producers' Board and Darwin business relief loans that were in arrears. Could he advise the Assembly if action has been taken?

ANSWER

I do not have specific information before me. I suggest that either he place the question on notice or write me a letter.

Letter PL629(3)GL2072 Relating to NT Portion 1097

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question by once more recalling the alacrity with which he read into Hansard the letter PL629 of about May this year in relation to NT portion 1097. Will he table a further letter PL629(3)GL2072 of October 1980 giving details of negotiations of his department in this matter?

ANSWER

The letter is dated 6 October. I have a copy here. I am not certain whether I have a spare copy. I certainly have no objection to either reading the letter into Hansard or tabling a copy of it. I would prefer not to take up the Assembly's time. The letter is dated 6 October 1980 and is addressed to Messrs Duncan and Gillman. I think the member indicated in a previous question that he thought it was addressed to solicitors Messrs Duncan and Gillman. The letter - and it is from myself - says:

*I am writing in reference to discussions between yourselves, my predecessor, the honourable Mr Marshall Perron MLA, and Mr Ron Wright of my department about the possible release of vacant Crown Land to the south of your lease as an extension of the existing pastoral lease. As you are aware, the area is subject to an Aboriginal land claim which precludes any action for the time being to facilitate the release of this land. I do not believe I should give any commitment in relation to your application now because circumstances could well have changed if and when the land becomes available for release.*

Mr Speaker, at the time of writing that letter, I was wrongly under the impression that it was a continuation of an existing land claim. Upon discovery that the initial land claim had been withdrawn, I drew the conclusion, in accordance with government policy, that it was a second land claim. Thereupon the property did become available for release. At that time, I called for both files, made a decision as to which of the applicants in chronological order of application was most deserving of a grant of a Crown lease and acted accordingly.

Jabiru Police Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the Commonwealth financial commitment to the building of the Jabiru police station?

ANSWER

Under the funding arrangements for the provision of social amenities and infrastructure at Jabiru, the Commonwealth, in accordance with clause 67 of the Memorandum of Understanding, has accepted the commitment of \$1.186m for the construction of a police station complex including a vehicle storage compound and a police officer's residence.

Water Supply at Yarralin

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received advice that the water supply at Yarralin community is reported to be faecal contaminated, that this has been known or suspected for more than a year and that the water pumps are continually breaking down because of their age and lack of maintenance? I might add that the resident female anthropologist was quite seriously ill last year and hospitalised in Katherine for some time because of drinking contaminated water.

ANSWER

I do not recall being advised of the specific case mentioned by the honourable member for Victoria River. There are quite a number of areas in the Northern Territory where the water supply is considered unsatisfactory. The water does not meet World Health Organisation minimum quality for human consumption. These matters are not easily overcome particularly as many Aboriginal groups are very reluctant to move from their present areas for reasons known to themselves. The government has had very extensive bore drilling programs throughout the Territory and some of these have been unsuccessful in finding water within the reasonable vicinity of a group of Aboriginal people. If they choose not to move and continue to drink water that is available, which is often surface water which may be quite badly contaminated, then finding a solution presents real problems. In conjunction with the Department of Transport and Works, my department is investigating such matters as solar distillers to try to obtain suitable low maintenance machinery that could be put into the field to produce water, at least for human consumption, even if in relatively small quantities. This is an ongoing program because we are concerned about the standard of water in quite a number of areas. I do not recall specifically the problem in relation to the group the honourable member mentioned.

National and International Airlines and the Northern Territory

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can the minister advise what action has been taken by himself and hard working officers of the Tourist Commission to encourage more national and international airlines to visit the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question is quite unexpected. I think the facts virtually speak for themselves in terms of the number of visitors attracted by and coming to the Northern Territory and the establishment of new air routes by the airlines. The Perth to Townsville route had its inaugural flight last month. The Minister for Transport and Works and I were on that flight. That is a weekly service and is fully booked until after Christmas. The Chief Minister has written to Ansett about establishing a weekly service between Brisbane, Alice Springs and Perth. At this stage, we have had no response from the Ansett people. The international scenario looks promising. Royal Brunei has asked, through the federal Department of Transport, to be considered for the operation of a service into Darwin and representatives from MAS are coming next April to see what possibilities exist for them to establish a service to the Territory also.

Aboriginal Teacher Training Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In compliance with a direction from the minister earlier this year that control of the program for Aboriginal teacher training at Batchelor should be given to the Darwin Community College, is it true that a proposal has been reached by the community college and the Department of Education that the course

should be split in half, the first 2 years being done in Batchelor and the last 2 years at the Darwin Community College?

ANSWER

At this stage, there is discussion between my department and the Darwin Community College as to the best method of implementing the decision I have taken. I would like to take the opportunity of clarifying what that decision was. Quite obviously, we would not want to see the Darwin Community College campus further split. Goodness knows, it has put up with that problem for long enough. As far as the teaching side is concerned, if we are going to encourage Aboriginal people to go into teacher training, then they must believe that the education they will get in order to become teachers is as near as possible to that which is obtained by any other person who trains as a teacher. Therefore, I believe that the entire teaching program ought to be done by the Darwin Community College. The residential facilities, however, are at Batchelor. Certainly, we would not want to shift all of that, at enormous capital expenditure, back to the Casuarina campus. In addition to that, the Department of Education will undertake programs which are somewhat similar to those which were starting at Dhupuma; that is, short-course work. It means it is truly a TAFE institution on that section. Basically, the property would remain with the Department of Education but all teaching functions in teacher education, including the first 2 years, would be carried out by the people who are properly trained to teach teachers.

#### Fresh Water Prawn Farming

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has consideration been given to the possibility of fresh water prawn farming in the Northern Territory as is taking place in some other tropical areas?

ANSWER

Consideration has been given to fresh water prawn farming. The information available is fairly scant as far as the Australian experience is concerned. I understand that this type of activity takes place overseas with some measure of success. In fact, the Director of Fisheries and I inspected a prawn hatchery at Port Broughton last year and we were quite excited about the possibilities for the Northern Territory. I do not think that the Territory is in a position to pursue this particular matter on the scale that it would like to because of manpower, finance and similar restrictions. I think the day will come when we will have to look at it very closely.

#### Humpty Doo High School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he tell me if the building of the Humpty Doo High School has started yet?

ANSWER

At this stage, site works and compaction are still taking place and we expect that selective tenders will be called on 10 December.

#### Freight Run to Maningrida

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that a letter bearing 92 signatures from residents of Maningrida has been forwarded to his department protesting at the stopping of the freight run to Maningrida by Darwin General Aviation? If he is aware of this letter, what action is he taking to open up that route as the residents desire?

ANSWER

I have not received that letter from the Maningrida residents. When I do, I will take the appropriate action to make sure that they receive a service.

Petrol Sniffing in Aboriginal Communities

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise what action is being taken by his department to come to grips with the widespread problem of petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

The problem of petrol sniffing is certainly a very serious one in the Territory. It appears that it is not getting any better. Recent reports of serious instances of petrol sniffing at Papunya and Maningrida have come to our attention. The Department of Community Development, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Liaison Office of the Department of the Chief Minister, has sent people to Papunya to examine the matter there and to talk with the Aboriginal elders and the council on the matter. They will be reporting to me within a matter of days. Following that, it is proposed that a number of departmental officers will go to Maningrida to compile information for the government on the extent of the problem and possible answers particularly from the more senior Aboriginal people. Petrol sniffing has been going on for a considerable time in some communities. Whilst governments have anguished over the question, the finding of solutions is very difficult. We do not propose to leave the matter there. Hopefully I will have some more information and a plan of action to be undertaken by government in the near future.

Small Business Advisory Service

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is there a proposal currently under consideration to establish permanent offices of the Small Business Advisory Service in all centres of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am not sure that an office would be fully engaged if one was established in places like Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. It must be borne in mind that the Small Business Advisory Service is exactly that. There is quite a division between the type of advice given and getting involved in a company in the way that an accountant might. The Small Business Advisory Service is very successful but to contemplate putting offices in all Territory centres would be somewhat of an overkill.

Rapid Creek Water Gardens

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek Water Gardens project already had 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the garden will look like, what was the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project and what was the cost of the third sign?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

'Boozers are Losers' T-shirts

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it true that some 2000 T-shirts with the slogan 'Boozers are Losers' were printed in Adelaide?

ANSWER

The position is that 240 T-shirts for the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign were printed in Adelaide at a cost of \$4 each. I am told that that had to be done because of shortage of time. The government had set a particular time limit for the launching of the campaign in the pre-Christmas period in the hope that it would have an effect on alcohol abuse during the month of December. As January is a time when many Territorians are absent on holidays, it was thought that the campaign should start in the pre-Christmas period. Thus, in a sense, the government must accept responsibility for that happening because we insisted on the particular time limit.

I am told, of the \$130,000 that has been budgeted for this campaign, a total of approximately \$100,000 will go to Territory businesses in one form or another. Invitations were issued to advertising agents to put forward proposals for the campaign and the proposal was selected. Unfortunately, no advertising agency is resident in the Northern Territory. In any event, the fact that one was established in the Northern Territory might not necessarily mean it had the capability even though the government would certainly want to support it and would hope that in due course the marketing industry will establish itself in the Territory. Clear directions have been given that, in the expenditure of funds in a campaign such as this, all possible resources that are available in the Territory must be used providing they are economical. I am told that the commercial was shot in Darwin and that local talent was used for the acting in the ads. The first round of TV, press and radio ads will put \$12,414 in the pockets of the local media.

Certainly, it is the policy of the Territory government that, wherever possible, local business will be used and indeed there is the preference provision in relation to the awarding of contracts. The government has issued those directions and it will reiterate those directions. I am instructing the Co-ordinator General to take up with the heads of all departments and statutory authorities the question of using Territory businesses to the maximum extent. I must say that the Territory government, like every government, is charged with the efficient administration of taxpayers' funds. If a quote comes in from Darwin at \$800 and 1 from Sydney for \$500, it is obvious that the taxpayers' interests have to be protected. After all, we are all Australians. I would hope that Territory businesses can be competitive and can obtain business in a fair tender situation without having to rely too much on the preference system. If those businesses are operating efficiently, they will have no problems at all. I will be directing again that all government department and authorities ensure that so far as possible all work that goes out from them is made available for tender to Territory businesses.

#### Transfer of Services to Gove District Hospital

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will there be further transfers of services from the Nhulunbuy Health Centre to the Gove District Hospital?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I undertook to obtain the information for the honourable member last week. I have not received it yet but, as soon as I receive it, I will pass it on.

#### Management Plans for Gunn Point Area

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

When a further management plan for the recreational use of the Gunn Point area is prepared and presented to the Chief Minister, will he undertake to put the plan on public display before final acceptance for input from people who wish to use the area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not know what undertaking I am prepared to give in relation to this particular matter at present. I would not necessarily call such a proposal a draft management plan. As I explained to the Assembly in answer to a question from the honourable member for Nightcliff last week, I have my own ideas on that. It is for that reason that I referred back to the Conservation Commission its first proposal. These proposals are very interesting, but one notices sometimes that certain interests creep into them. In any event, when I receive a further proposal from the Conservation Commission, if it is acceptable to me and to Cabinet, then certainly I envisage that public input will be called for at that stage. I dare say that, in due course, copies of proposals for Gunn Point could be tabled in this Assembly if it is thought necessary. That will be a matter for decision at the time.

Occupational Licence on Undoolya Road

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the honourable minister seen fit to grant an occupation licence to the Alice Springs group of Territory Tidy Towns for an area of land out on Undoolya Road for which it applied?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was most interested in the proposal put forward by the Alice Springs electorate branch of the Territory Tidy Towns organisation. It has been broken up into electorates. Certainly, Mr Speaker, an occupation licence will be issued to that organisation. I think we can all be grateful for the effort that they are going to put into it. It is purely for the purpose of cleaning up an area which has been uncared for. They will probably provide parkland seating, perhaps barbecues, and that type of thing.

Nuclear-Safeguards Agreement between Australia and Japan

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the Assembly whether a nuclear-safeguards agreement has yet been signed between Australia and Japan? If not, will this affect the marketing of uranium from Ranger to Japan?

ANSWER

I am not privy to the negotiations between Australia and Japan on this very sensitive issue. However, I believe they are very close to agreement and there is hope that the matter will be resolved in the next month or two. My understanding of the contracts between Ranger and Japan is that contracts that were signed prior to 1972 are not being held up as a result of the non-signing of the treaty but will be embraced in the treaty. I will get further information on that for the member.

Territory Awareness of Fishing Industry Potential

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does he intend to take steps to make Territorians more aware of the fishing industry and its potential worth and will he stress this in comparison with the mining, pastoral and tourist industries?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I think the process that we have adopted of trying to communicate with people is working satisfactorily. When we have further information that needs discussion, that information will be made available to the public in the same way as other booklets that have been produced by the technical officers in Fisheries Division.

NT Road Maps

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware that road maps available to tourists and others in the Northern Territory are significantly out of date? What action is being taken to upgrade these maps?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any specific action taken to upgrade maps for the benefit of tourists and travellers in the Northern Territory. It is a matter that no doubt we will be advised about by the tourist promotion associations or the Tourist Advisory Council. I am quite happy to take the matter on board and see what improvements are needed.

Urban Lands Unit

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the role of the Urban Lands Unit and how many people comprise that particular unit?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice. I do not have in my head all the details of the various government departments that the member may seek to refer to.

Departmental Inquiry into Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he comment on the statement made by the member for Nightcliff yesterday to the effect that there is a departmental inquiry into the Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit?

ANSWER

I noticed what the member for Nightcliff said yesterday afternoon in that she abjured me to believe her when she said that there was in fact a departmental inquiry going on into the operations of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit of the Police Force. I certainly know that the member for Nightcliff has some very good sources for the information that she usually comes up with in this Assembly about the fisheries area. Her sources, I understand, are well known to the police. In any event, I spoke to the Police Commissioner about this because I do try to take as seriously as I can the remarks of the member for Nightcliff from time to time. I am assured by the Police Commissioner who, in my hearing, checked with the Deputy Commissioner, that there is no departmental inquiry of any nature going on into the operations of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit at present so the informant had better get his ear to the key-hole once again.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

Government Assistance for Tradesmen to Visit Remote Areas

44 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What assistance will the government provide to enable electrical, plumbing and building tradesmen and inspectors to visit remote centres such as Borroloolua to assist home owners?

From 24 February 1981

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey and Hodgson Downs pastoral leases for use as community areas for Aborigines?
2. Is the government's failure to obtain such excisions frustrating provision of essential services such as septic systems, power supplies, airstrips and housing?

Katherine Water Supply

133 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will electricity to be reticulated to the new water supply at Donkey Camp near Katherine be extended to cater for consumers and future subdivisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 3 March 1981

East West Airlines

162 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Did the government receive from East West around May 1980 details of that company's borrowing capacity, including (a) current East West borrowing capacity, (b) borrowing requirements for operations outside the Territory, (c) equity levels to support borrowing, and (d) capacity to support borrowing by the NT airline?
2. If so, why was this information not made available to the merchant banker, Hill Samuel?

East West Airlines

163 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the 3-man committee established by the government to examine the Connair takeover offers first recommend acceptance of other offers before recommending East West?

Industries Training Commission

173 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many apprentices are with the Industries Training Commission?
2. What is the number in each trade and the breakdown of males and females for each category?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What rate of interest is being charged on the \$1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

Student Assistance in NT

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

Medical Practitioners Servicing Community Health Centres

205 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many doctors have been servicing community health centres, and how many of these are private practitioners?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region of NT

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?
3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?

4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Alice Springs Women's Community Centre

223 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When will the Women's Community Centre in Alice Springs commence operations?
2. If the centre has not been opened by the end of June 1981 will the Department of Health continue to fund St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army to enable these agencies to provide services to destitute and homeless people until the new centre is open?
3. If not, why not?
4. If so, have these agencies been informed that their funding will be maintained until the new centre commences operations?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?
2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Beef Exports to South-East Asia

239 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER AND MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he government commission a survey of markets for beef in South-East Asia and other areas?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?
2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

Grants-in-Aid - Darwin Sporting Bodies

322 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Darwin sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Alice Springs Sporting Bodies

323 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided by the NT government through Grants-in-Aid to Alice Springs sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Tennant Creek Sporting Bodies

324 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Tennant Creek sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Grants-in-Aid - Katherine Sporting Bodies

325 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Katherine sporting bodies during 1980-81?

From 19 August 1981

St Vidgeon Station and Eva Valley Station

346 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the future of St Vidgeon Station where Aborigines are building stock yards, etc?
2. What is the future of Eva Valley Station?

From 25 August 1981

Health Centre at Katherine

353 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is a health centre to be built at Katherine within 1 mile of the existing community health centre?

From 24 November 1981

Special Purposes Lease Application for 15-mile Camp

357 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- (a) Is he aware that a group of Aboriginal people at the 15-mile camp in rural Darwin (Electorate of Tiwi) is seeking a Special Purposes Lease to this camping site?
- (b) What discussions within his department and negotiations with the Aboriginal group have been held on the granting of such lease?
- (c) Does he intend to grant a lease to the 15-mile camp or any alternative site known to be suitable to the group?

NT Pastoral Leases

364 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he please table the following information:

- (a) The names and sizes of pastoral leases in the Northern Territory,
  - (i) where the lease is held by Australian citizens as lessee-occupiers,

and (ii) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory, (iii) where the majority of directors and shareholders live in the Northern Territory, (iv) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory but where the majority of directors and shareholders live outside the Northern Territory, and (b) where the lease is held by companies registered outside the Northern Territory?

- (b) The names of the companies registered in the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?
- (c) The names of the companies registered outside the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?
- (d) The location of registration of the interstate companies which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?
- (e) The names and addresses of individuals who live outside the Northern Territory and who hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

Ministerial Statement on Health

376 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

- 1. In a ministerial statement he stated that officers have visited Aboriginal communities. How many communities have been visited and by whom?
- 2. He stated that the number of authorized beds is to be reduced from 312 to 292. As this number includes a 12-bed surgical day ward, what else does it include?
- 3. He also stated that staff is to be reduced by 70. When does he intend that this reduction take place, what staff will be affected, and where?

Health Clinic at Lake Nash

377 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

- 1. Is it true that his department sought the use of the former police station at Lake Nash as a health clinic, but that the former Director of Health decided that the station would be better used as a home and office for a stock inspector?
- 2. If so, what arrangements are being made to establish and staff a health clinic at Lake Nash?

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

Kailis Fishing Company - Trucking Route

468 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

- 1. Is it accurate to describe the proposed trucking route to be used by the Kailis fishing company between Roper River and Darwin as an 'all weather' route?
- 2. How much of the route is unsealed?

Interpreter Service for Aborigines

469 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action does the government intend taking in response to the working party's report on the need for Aboriginal interpreter services in the NT?
2. If such services are to be established, what will be (a) their nature, (b) their funding, and (c) anticipated commencement date?

Sexual Harassment

470 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action has been taken by departments and authorities to develop policies and procedures for resolving cases of sexual harassment at the workplace since the circulation of the guidelines on sexual harassment to departmental heads and prescribed authorities by the Public Service Commissioner on 29 June 1981?
2. Have any complaints of sexual harassment been made and, if so, how many and what action followed?

Aboriginal Liaison Unit

471 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the allocation for travel for the officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit for 1981-82?
2. How much was expended in 1980-81?

United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

472 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the NT agreed to accept the United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its present form?
2. If not, what sections of the convention does the NT wish to be changed?

Domestic Violence in NT

473 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government consider there is a need to take action on the problem of domestic violence in the NT community and, if so, what action does it consider is necessary?

Strategies for Employment of Aborigines

474 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the strategies being undertaken for increasing employment of Aborigines by the NT government?

Department of Community Development - Counselling

475 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many officers are involved in counselling in the Department of Community Development?
2. What are the qualifications of the officers?

3. What is (a) the average baseload, and (b) the average number of clients seen per week by each counsellor?
4. What percentage of the clients are Aborigines?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?
2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine Corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

Free Health Care for Pensioners

478 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he considered extending free health care to all pensioners regardless of whether they qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card, as occurs in New South Wales?
2. If not, why not?

Treatment of Trachoma in Aboriginal Communities

479 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he provide details of the evidence available on the effectiveness of tetracycline eyedrops in the treatment of trachoma in Aboriginal communities?

Occupational Health Hazards

480 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

During 1980-81, (a) what occupational health hazards have been reported, (b) what areas have been identified as 'at risk', and (c) what expansion has there been in the occupational health capacity?

Health Insurance Claims

481 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What actions has been taken to ensure that health insurance claims will be processed more quickly?
2. Are claims still taking up to 8 weeks to be processed?

Waiting Time at Casuarina Hospital

482 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Is action to be taken to reduce the average waiting time of 70 minutes

for non-urgent cases and 30 minutes for urgent cases at the Casuarina Hospital casualty department?

2. If so, what action?

Direct Telephone Line from Katherine Hospital to Police Station

483 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is there a direct telephone line from the Katherine hospital to the police station for emergency use?

Out-of-Turn Allocations by Housing Commission

484 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the government establish an appeals system for those applicants who have been refused out-of-turn allocation by the Housing Commission and who still consider their situation warrants further consideration?

Mentally-retarded Children in NT Primary Schools

485 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many mentally retarded children are attending primary schools in the NT?

2. What specialist staff is provided for such children?

Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association Convention

486 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Following the government's public announcement of its encouragement for a Territory horticultural industry, were any Department of Primary Production officers present at the third national convention organised by the Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, understanding that the 4-day discussions involved growers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters and those working in packaging?

Fisheries Division Program

487 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What results are forthcoming from the new Fisheries Division program aimed at boosting the total Top End catch; that is, the program looking at Spanish mackerel, shark and demersal fish?

Government Cattle at Elizabeth River Dairy

488 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he advise details of the records and milk samples of the dairy cattle belonging to the Department of Primary Production at Fitzgerald's Elizabeth River dairy?

Government Expenditure on Agriculture

489 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he provide a breakdown of government expenditure into seasonal requirements and agricultural development initiatives for the 1974-75 season up to the projected figures for 1981-82?

Point Stuart Abattoir - Payment for Cattle

490 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware that the Cattlemens Union passed a resolution expressing concern at the slowness of payment by Point Stuart abattoir for cattle received for slaughter?

Contract Beef Production

491 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware of the decision of the Cattlemens Union to support in principle the contract growing of beef and cattle for specific markets?

Powell Creek Telegraph Station

492 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is the Powell Creek telegraph station being stripped of roofing iron, water tanks and paving stones, and being completely neglected by its present lessee?
2. If so, will the government take steps to preserve this historic complex immediately?

Prawning Licences

493 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many prawning licences were granted by the Department of Primary Production in 1979-80 and 1980-81?
2. How many prawning licences were in existence as at 30 June (a) 1978, (b) 1979, (c) 1980, and (d) 1981?

NTDC Loans

494 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many applications for Northern Territory Development Corporation loans were received from the agricultural and horticultural industries in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
2. How many applications were successful and for what activities were loans granted?
3. What was the average repayment period associated with loans granted?
4. Were any interest or repayment holidays granted on any loans to the rural sector?

Shell Island Powerhouse Site

495 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Regarding the siting of the powerhouse on Shell Island, is he aware of the mean height of the island and has he taken into consideration the surge level of the island?

From 25 November 1981

Complaints under the Fish and Fisheries Act

496 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. How many complaints have been laid for illegal fishing under the Fish and Fisheries Act?
2. How many of those complaints have resulted in prosecutions?
3. How many convictions have been recorded?

Research on Industrial Crops

497 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What research, if any, is presently being undertaken on the industrial crops cassava, sugar cane, kenof and leucaena?

From 1 December 1981

Housing Commission Rental Assistance to Pensioners

498 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the federal government will not pay supplementary rental assistance of up to \$8 maximum to pensioners who become tenants of the NT Housing Commission after January 1982 but will continue to pay it to eligible pensioners accommodated by the Housing Commission prior to January 1982?
2. If so, can he give an assurance that those pensioners not in receipt of supplementary assistance will pay no more in rent than those pensioners who continue to receive supplementary rental assistance after January 1982?

Detoxification Centres in NT

499 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the government support the establishment of detoxification centres, pick-up services and halfway houses for the Northern Territory?
2. What is the government's attitude to the introduction of a concessional differential on low alcohol beer?

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Leucaena Trials at Mataranka

501 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What progress has been made with Leucaena trials at Mataranka?

Northern Territory Public Service

502 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the average female earnings in the NTPS?
2. How many (a) male, and (b) female university graduates are employed in the NTPS?

Darwin Central Community Health Centre

503 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government considering relocating the Darwin Central Community Health Centre and, if so, where is it to be located and for what reasons?

Chest X-rays - National Tuberculosis Act 1948

504 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since the introduction of the 'user pays' medical and health charges on 1 September 1981, (a) what arrangements have been made by his department under the National Tuberculosis Act 1948 for the general public to have chest X-rays at no charge at general hospitals throughout the NT, and (b) if arrangements have been made will they be advertised in the media throughout the Northern Territory?

Attendance Figures at Outpatients

505 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. From 1 September to 31 October 1981, how many people (a) who attended outpatients departments in NT hospitals, and (b) who were hospitalised, were (i) insured, (ii) uninsured, or (iii) held disadvantaged and PHB cards?
2. How do those figures compare with those for the same period during 1980?
3. What was the percentage of Aboriginals in each of those categories?

Non-urgent Outpatients Treatment

506 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people wanting non-urgent treatment at outpatients departments in NT hospitals have not been seen because they have not had the necessary fee since 1 September 1981?

Anti-depressant Medication

507 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Are patients in NT hospitals who are not suffering from a psychosis prescribed anti-depressant medication without their knowledge and consent? If so, under what conditions?
2. How many (a) inpatients, and (b) outpatients were prescribed anti-depressant medication during 1980-81?

Allocations to Community Health Centres

508 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is he allocating from the Commonwealth's general revenue fund

of \$20.6 million to community health centres, hospitals and school dental services for each hospital and community health centre?

2. How much is the NT government allocating to these areas in 1981-82, for each community health centre, hospital and school dental service?
3. What was expended under these headings in 1980-81?

Drug Education Program in NT

509 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the drug education programs to be conducted in the Northern Territory during 1981-82?

Commonwealth Health Grants

510 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Commonwealth provided \$9 million for health planning and research in the form of grants to the states and the Northern Territory (on a \$1 for \$1 basis) and to institutions and persons?
2. If so, (a) how much has been allocated to the Northern Territory, and (b) for what purposes?

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

511 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action has been taken to correct the following unsatisfactory controls relating to grants-in-aid commented upon by the Auditor-General in 1978-79 and found to be still unsatisfactory in 1980:

- (a) inadequacies in the promulgated conditions for grants;
- (b) the absence of reference to formal acceptance of the conditions and purpose of grants;
- (c) the legal entity of grantees;
- (d) the withholding of moneys for non-compliance with grant conditions;
- (e) the lack of current formalized departmental procedures and guidelines covering functional responsibilities and criteria for the evaluation of grant applications and the monitoring of performance of grantees; and
- (f) the apparent absence of follow-up action by his department in certain instances where it is not evident that grantees had complied with the conditions of grants?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As a number of people have lost their savings in the Collia tin mine affair,

- (a) what detailed action has been taken by the Department of Mines to settle the matter;
- (b) how much money has been lost by people involved;
- (c) how much did Mr Ken Day receive for the tin he mined from Collia;

- (d) why has he not explained in the Legislative Assembly what action the government has taken;
- (e) did the Department of Law recommend that anybody be charged over the affair and, if so, why was not that recommended action proceeded with;
- (f) was the government's lack of action coloured by the fact that Mr Day was once the head of the Progress Party, whose votes had helped the Country Liberal Party;
- (g) what is now being done about the matter;
- (f) are police trying to contact the previous leaseholder who disappeared and, if so, do they know in which state he is residing?

Public Housing in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?
2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?
3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Housing Commission Rental Rebates

514 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What percentage of Housing Commission tenants are in receipt of rental rebate on public housing?
2. How many tenants receive the full rebate?
3. What proportion of tenants receiving rebates are pensioners or social security recipients?
4. How many public servants are in receipt of rental rebate?
5. Are any public servants at executive level in receipt of rental rebate?

Allocation of Public Housing

515 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for out-of-turn allocation of public housing from 31 October 1980 to 1 September 1981 were (a) received, (b) accepted, and (c) rejected?
2. How many applicants whose applications were accepted or rejected were in receipt of (a) supporting parent benefit, (b) unemployment benefit, (c) other pensions, and (d) were one income families?

Expenditure on Aids to Disabled People

516 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he ascertain and advise how the funds were spent in 1980-81 which the Commonwealth provided for aids to disabled people who were not eligible under Commonwealth-state programs?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?
2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?
3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Petrol Sniffing in NT

518 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Will he provide details on the prevalence of petrol sniffing in the Northern Territory?
2. What action, if any, is being taken to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing?

Applications to Health Department for Grants-in-Aid

519 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many (a) applications for grants-in-aid were lodged for 1981-82, and (b) which organisations were unsuccessful?

Variations Between Bed Costs in NT Hospitals

520 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why do the bed costs in NT hospitals vary between \$78 and \$254, and where does this variation occur?

Central Health Office

521 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What functions of the central office of the Department of Health could more appropriately be carried out by regional offices?

Rationalisation of Health Services

522 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the light of the new health charges, he said he would reduce staffing at the Casuarina Hospital and close a ward in order to obtain possible savings, and he also spoke of reviewing community health centres. How will health services be rationalised to take account of these changes?

Staff Reductions at Casuarina Hospital

523 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Which staff organisations at the Casuarina Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their memberships?
2. In which areas have staff reductions already been affected?
3. How many people have been affected to date?

Consultants' Fees for Hospital Services

524 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what specific purposes have the allocations of \$76,000 for consultants fees for hospital services and \$38,000 in health services been made?
2. In 1980-81, (a) how many consultants were employed, (b) for what purposes, and (c) what payments were made to each consultant?

Health Department Debt Collectors

525 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many debt collectors are to be employed as a consequence of the new health charges?
2. What is the 1981-82 budget allocation for their employment?

Health Charges

526 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

He stated that emphasis would be placed on debtors who can afford to pay health charges rather than those who cannot. How does he expect this differentiation to be made?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

NT Patients Transferred Interstate

528 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What are the details of the medical agreements under which NT patients can be transferred to each state?
2. How much was spent and on how many patients under each scheme during 1980-81?
3. How much has been allocated in this year's budget?

Separate Facilities at Casuarina Hospital

529 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he rejected his working party recommendations to erect separate facilities at Casuarina Hospital for psychiatric, handicapped and geriatric patients?
2. If so, why?

3. If not, has any money been allocated for their establishment in 1981-82, and when does he expect such facilities to be operational?

Nursing Home Care

530 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many elderly patients does he anticipate are in need of nursing home care?
2. How many are Aborigines?
3. Are there any plans to establish separate facilities for the elderly Aborigines?

Outpatients Services

531 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he expect any increase in the use of outpatients departments as a consequence of the new health charges? If so, are there any plans to upgrade the services of outpatients and in what way?

Disadvantaged Cards

532 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people does he estimate could be classified as disadvantaged who have not yet received a disadvantaged card and what percentage of these are Aborigines?

Psychiatric Services

533 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the overall strategy of the government to improve psychiatric services?
2. What are seen as the main priorities?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?
2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from \$510,000 to \$475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Health Funding

535 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does he expect to re-examine the Territory's revenue raising capacity with the Commonwealth Minister for Health?
2. Is he compiling the necessary statistics previously not available, to strengthen our case for additional Commonwealth funding? If so, what do these statistics comprise?

Private Hospital in Darwin

536 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many tenders have been received for establishing a private hospital in Darwin?

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?
2. How many were transferred?
3. What was the average length of stay per patient?
4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?
2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?
3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

School Dental Therapists

539 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many rural areas are covered by school dental therapists in mobile teams?
2. How many areas are not covered?
3. When does he expect the service to extend to those presently not covered?

Occupational Health Service

540 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Of whom is the occupational health service comprised?
2. What are its main functions?
3. How does it carry these out?
4. What was its expenditure in 1980-81?
5. What is its allocation for 1981-82?

Staffing Levels in NT Hospitals

541 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Where does he expect staffing levels in Territory hospitals to be reduced and by how many and when?

Expenditure on Community Welfare

542 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Could he itemise how much was expended in 1980-81 and how much has been allocated in 1981-82 in the following areas of Community Welfare (a) substitute care for children, (b) youth services, (c) family services, (d) income maintenance, (e) subsidies and grants-in-aid to

- community organisations engaged in welfare services, (f) community work, (g) policy and planning, (h) information, (i) ethnic affairs, (j) administration, and (k) handicapped persons?
2. Can an itemisation of allocation under each program be provided where possible with details of which organisations received grants-in-aid? How many unsuccessful applications were there? When was the closing date of applications for grants-in-aid and when were these organisations notified of their funding?
  3. What is being allocated in cash in 1981-82 and for which Aboriginal communities under the essential services program of Community Government? What are the proposed new projects?
  4. Could he detail where the 400 Aborigines employed within their own communities on the construction of essential services are?
  5. How much has been allocated in 1981-82 for the introduction and development of community government councils? Are any community government councils to be established and, if so, where?
  6. Could he provide details of the budget allocation in 1981-82 for community services in the 4 divisions?
  7. Who is receiving grants-in-aid in Arts and Cultural Affairs and Youth, Sport and Recreation, and how much?
  8. When was the closing date for such applications and when were the successful organisations notified of their funding?
  9. How many successful grants-in-aid applications were there in 1981-82 for these sections?

School-to-Work Transition Program

543 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has there been an evaluation of the school-to-work transition programs in the Northern Territory? If so, what was the nature of the evaluation and the results? If not, is an evaluation planned?
2. In 1980-81 how many students, at what level of education, were involved in the school-to-work program?
3. How many teachers, for how many hours per week and where, were involved?
4. Where did the students go for their work experience? In what numbers?
5. What increase and expansion of the program is planned for 1981-82 with the significantly increased funding allocation? How many students will it cater for? Which schools are to receive cash grants and how much?

Regulatory and Advisory Council Meetings

544 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Regulatory and Advisory Council meetings for schools are expected in 1981-82? What is the average cost per meeting?

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

546 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Aboriginal teaching assistants are expected to be employed in 1981-82 and at which homeland centres?

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?
2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

*Lapsed on resignation of Mr Isaacs*

6, 147, 158, 159, 160, 161, 164, 165, 206, 222, 286, 289, 345, 385, 391, 392, 393, 394, 396, 397, 398, 404, 414, 415, 418, 421, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 457, 458, 459, 463, 464, 466.

Katherine Community Welfare Office

134 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Why did Mr Peter Ryan or his department post a notice on the door of the regional office in Katherine on 8 January 1981 advising people in need of assistance to contact Les MacFarlane?
2. Is this action likely to be repeated?

ANSWER

1. On 8 January 1981, Mr Peter Ryan placed a notice on the office door referring people to Community Welfare staff in Darwin or to Mr MacFarlane's office. This unauthorised action occurred during a period of heavy workloads and the immediate pressure of 2 crisis cases.
2. The filling of an existing staff vacancy and the move to more suitable office accommodation within the next few weeks will ensure that this action does not occur again. Instructions have been issued to the effect that there should be no recurrence of this action.

Tenders for School Bus Runs

152 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Why was ETB 3/80 cancelled and recalled as ETB 14/80?

153 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In regard to tenders TB 1026/79A and TB 1093/79, in what respect did the tenders received from O'Hara's Roadlines Pty Ltd not conform?

154 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is it a fact that the tenderer awarded tenders TB 1026/79A and TB 1093/79 had 8 buses to service 7 runs?
2. If so, how was the tenderer awarded these runs being 2 buses short of the required 10 buses for 8 runs?

155 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Does tender TB 1026/79 (school bus runs) state that all buses offered in the tender must be in Darwin 14 days prior to the commencement of the tender?
2. If so, why was the tender awarded to a tenderer who did not meet this specific requirement?

ANSWER

Collectively the questions (Nos. 152-155) are designed to elicit information concerning the assessment of tenders for school bus runs by the General Tender Board. The Board is constituted by law as an independent body free from ministerial direction. If anyone should feel aggrieved by a decision of the General Tender Board there is provision under law for the matter to be referred to the Northern Territory ombudsman who can investigate the circumstances while preserving the confidentiality that is essential to the operation of the Tender Board. It would completely frustrate the intention of the legislation if the deliberations of a Tender Board and details of individual tenders were to be made public.

Female Field Worker with Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority

175 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority appointed a suitably qualified female field worker-anthropologist to work directly with Aboriginal women?

ANSWER

Yes.

Mining Royalties Paid to Aborigines

178 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he ascertain and advise -

1. The amount paid to Aborigines in the NT from mining royalties in (a) 1978, (b) 1979 and (c) 1980?
2. What level are these mining royalties expected to reach in 1981?
3. What funds the Aboriginal Development Commission has to invest in the NT in 1980-81?
4. Are mining royalties paid to Aborigines considered as taxable income?

ANSWER

1. The amount paid into the Aboriginal Benefit Trust Account in the NT from mining royalties is:

- (a) 1979-79 - \$1,135,820.00;
- (b) 1979-80 - \$2,084,072.30; and
- (c) 1980-81 - estimate \$4,097,953.81.

N.B.: Each of these figures is a gross figure. A mining withholding tax of 6.4% is deductible from each.

2. In 1981-82 mining royalties are estimated to total \$5,896,000.

N.B.: The same mining withholding tax of 6.4% will be deducted.

3. In reply to this question the Aboriginal Development Commission has supplied the following response:

'The commission does not allocate funds on a state or regional basis. Funds are allocated to the various functions performed by the commission, in accordance with its view of the priority of each function.

'The commission's funding for the financial year 1980-81 is from the following sources:

Commonwealth appropriations to the General Fund	\$ 13,838,000
Funds carried forward from previous commissions	\$ 4,114,000
Income from investments (est.)	\$ 500,000
Revenue from loan repayments (est.)	\$ 3,000,000
	<u>\$ 21,452,000</u>

'The commission allocated the funds from these sources as follows:

Land acquisitions	\$ 2,358,000
Enterprise assistance	\$ 5,287,000
Housing loans	\$ 10,907,000
Administration	<u>\$ 2,900,000</u>
	<u>\$ 21,452,000</u>

'Moneys for housing loans have not been expended in the Northern

Territory this financial year (1980-81), as the commission's current policy is to lend only to applicants who are unable to borrow from other sources. Northern Territory applicants are directed to the Northern Territory Housing Commission which offers concessional finance on criteria similar to the commission's.

'In addition to the Commonwealth government appropriation to the General Fund, an appropriation of \$10 million was appropriated to the Capital Fund.

'Moneys appropriated to the Capital Fund are solely for investment, and the income derived from those investments made available for the purpose of the General Fund.

'Moneys of the Capital Fund have not been invested in the Northern Territory.'

4. No. Once mining withholding tax is paid, income from mining royalties is exempt from further taxation.

Mustering of Cattle in National Parks and Reserves

208 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the current policy of the Conservation Commission regarding the mustering of cattle in national parks and reserves?
2. (a) Who pays the cost of the mustering, (b) how many musters have been conducted in Central Australia during the past 2 years, (c) how much did each muster cost, (d) what happened to the mustered cattle, and (e) what payments have been received by the Conservation Commission from pastoralists for mustering services?

ANSWER

1. Under section 113 of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, the director is empowered to authorise the destruction of feral animals on parks, reserves, protected areas or sanctuaries.

Normally then, where a problem exists with stock, negotiations are conducted with adjoining landholders to discuss the feasibility of a worthwhile muster, and subsequent removal of the animals. In the case of stock, these are usually promptly removed. However, landholders are often not interested in the removal of feral animals such as brumbies or donkeys.

If adjoining landholders are not interested, tenders may be called for the removal of the animals by live catching or by pet meat operators. The carcasses are used for commercial gain by the successful tenderer.

Exhaustive efforts are made to effect commercial removal and utilisation of the animals concerned. Only if this cannot be achieved will Commission staff be deployed to destroy the animals.

The Conservation Commission reserves the right in all cases to take necessary action for the removal of dangerous, problem or wounded animals.

2. (a) The landholder pays the cost, however, the Commission has, in the past 2 years, contributed to the cost of 3 musters.  
(b) Eleven.  
(c) Costs to the Commission were as follows:

Trephina Gorge

\$ 1,376

Ormiston Gorge (clearing pound)	\$	625
Simpson's Gap (costs shared with Hamilton Downs and Bond Springs)	\$	500

Other musters - nil cost to the Commission.

(d) Mustered cattle were shared by participating landholders.

(e) Nil.

Yulara Tourist Village

209 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In terms of concept and structural characteristics, what is the nature of each Yulara Village development proposal received to 10 June 1981 by the NT Development Corporation?
2. Have development guidelines as set down in a document entitled 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' prepared by Goodchild Research Studies for prospective Yulara developers been changed in any way since their release earlier this year?
3. If so, (a) in what regard, and (b) what has been the reaction to this revision or alteration of guidelines in terms of investor and development interest?
4. Will development of Yulara Village be restricted in terms of vertical height?
5. Will development proposals for structures of more than 3 storeys be considered as viable by the NT Development Corporation?

ANSWER

1. The preliminary Yulara Village development proposals indicate that the building construction will be based upon brick, timber, steel and concrete and the proposals appear to comply with normal building codes in respect of these types of construction. One proposal suggested the use of local sand in the manufacture of a mud brick with the normal use of timber, steel and concrete.

The proponents sought changes to the layout of the village, in line with modern tourist resorts in other parts of the world, to maximise the total energy concept, to minimise transport difficulties of employees living in the village, and to make the village more marketable on the world tourist circuit.

Final development proposals for the village were submitted on 17 July 1981.

2. The developmental guidelines as set down in a document entitled 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' prepared by Goodchild Research Studies have not been changed since their release.

However, each developer has been advised that the 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' are not strict conditions imposed on them - they are in fact guidelines. Provided any move from the guidelines is well documented and justified, such a proposal would be considered.

3. It is not necessary to answer this question.
4. Yes.
5. The question does not arise. None of the final proposals submitted on 17 July embody buildings higher than 3 storeys.

Napperby Station Sublease

215 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What discussions have been held between officers of the Department of Community Development and the Department of Transport and Works regarding the piping of water to a proposed sublease on Napperby Station?
2. How much will it cost for the equipment and installation of an adequate water supply at the Napperby sublease and who will meet the cost?
3. Will the school and other government-supplied facilities presently being used by the Laramba Community at Napperby be moved to the new sublease if and when negotiations are completed for the sublease?
4. What will be the cost of moving and re-establishing the facilities on the new site?

ANSWER

1. Officers of both the Department of Community Development and the Department of Transport and Works have considered several different methods of augmenting the existing water supply at Napperby to cater for the increasing Aboriginal population.

In considering proposals for Napperby, it is pertinent to bear in mind that 35 bores, including 4 in January 1981, have been sunk on the property since 1971, at a cost of \$70,000. All have been unsuccessful. The Spear Point system installed for the community in 1977 for \$18,000 provides the current supply but cannot be developed further.

Although several alternatives have been considered it is apparent that insufficient information exists as to the overall water resources potential in this area of scarce groundwater supplies.

Before a decision can be taken on the best course of action, taking into account costs, quality of supply and ability to meet demand, the 2 departments involved have agreed that a total water resources investigation occur within the next 3 months.

2. Until the results of the proposed water resources survey are known, it is difficult to attempt to provide an estimate of costs to install an adequate water supply to the proposed Napperby sublease. A dam would have to be built or water piped 25 miles unless water in good quantities is found closer to the community and either proposition will cost in the order of \$1 million. If the government can save any of this money to use on other projects for the Napperby community by locating water nearer than 25 miles away it is obviously in the interests of the people that it do so.
- \*3. The only government supplied facility at Napperby is the school and at this stage there is no plan for relocation. The location of the community within the proposed sublease will be dependent upon water supply, but will be at least 3 km from the school. It has been agreed with the community that conveyance allowance will be paid for children travelling between home and school with the possibility of a bus being provided in due course.
- \*4. The cost to relocate the school would be in the order of \$80,000.

(\* Answers to questions 3 and 4 provided by the Minister for Education).

Auditor-General's Report - Deficiencies in Department of Transport and Works

230 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the deficiencies in his department noted by the Auditor-General following an audit undertaken in March 1980 and ask:

1. Have standardised procedures for management of repairs and maintenance works been established and are they now available?
2. Has the level of supervision by the department over period contracts been raised, and has the frequency of inspections by supervisors of period contracts been increased?
3. Is there now in existence a format for reporting to management in respect of contractors' performances?
4. In relation to capital works programs, have procedures for the administration of consultants' commissions been revised and, if so, do these revised procedures include a check list for the preparation of payments to consultants?
5. In relation to the collection of both water and sewerage rates, what action was taken as a result of the query by the Auditor-General in 1979 and again in 1980 about defective procedures relating to the preparation and rendition of accounts for services provided?
6. What success has been achieved in improving procedures in relation to the collection of outstanding water and sewerage rates?
7. In regard to water and sewerage rates, have the following issues been resolved -
  - (a) the liability or otherwise of the Department of Lands for vacant Crown land;
  - (b) union concern regarding the payment of basic charges for members in Commonwealth housing; and
  - (c) the incorrect billing of government departments?
8. In the Property Branch of the department have the following issues been resolved -
  - (a) problems relating to the formalising and registering of leases by the department; and
  - (b) the lack of a property management procedure manual which could be made available to departments and authorities?
9. In the branch of stores and stores accounting, (a) has the new stores computer system been implemented and, if so, (b) is he satisfied that there now exist adequate internal controls and procedural documentation within the stores branch?

ANSWER

1. Standardised procedures for repairs and maintenance have been issued for use within the department.
2. The level of supervision of period contracts has been improved, including increasing the frequency of inspections by supervisors.
3. A contractor's performance report is in use.
4. The procedures for administering consultants' commissions have been reviewed, and in lieu of a check list, the form used for payment has been revised to include the necessary control requirements.
5. Most of the problems related to the poor state of records handed over from the Commonwealth in 1978. Procedures have been reviewed and

streamlined, records checked and verified, and significant improvements made in the total processing of water and sewerage billing.

6. The rate of recovery of outstanding accounts has been increased to a satisfactory level throughout the Northern Territory.
7. The 3 issues mentioned which were affecting the recovery of water and sewerage rates have been satisfactorily resolved.
8. Administrative arrangements have been improved to ensure that lease agreements are finalised without delay, and a property management procedure manual has been compiled.
9. The new stores computer system has been implemented and I am satisfied that adequate internal controls and procedural documentation exist within the Supply Branch.

Todd River Causeway

231 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has his attention been drawn to a recent press report regarding the construction of a causeway across the Todd River to service the new casino, and which stated that the causeway would cost \$846,000?
2. How much is Federal Pacific Hotels, which stands to gain the most benefit from the causeway, contributing to the cost of this new river crossing?
3. Did he, or his department, ask Federal Pacific Hotels to meet the total cost of the causeway and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. My attention has been drawn to a press statement which did state that a causeway is being built in the proximity of the new Alice Springs casino and would cost \$846,000. This is incorrect as the cost of the causeway was \$334,000.
2. Federal Pacific Hotels has contributed \$50,000.
3. No, because the causeway provides access to other than the casino. The honourable member, as a resident of Alice Springs, should be well aware of the proposed developments in the proximity of the casino - all of these will benefit from the construction of the causeway and associated roadworks.

Health Clinic at Lake Nash

232 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has an application been made by the Department of Health in Alice Springs for the use of the old police station at Lake Nash as a health clinic?
2. If so, what is the result of the application?
3. If not, what plans have been made for the use or disposal of the police station complex?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. Both the Departments of Health and Primary Production sought use of the surplus facility, and the relative needs of each were assessed on their merits. Health already has a presence in the area, whereas Primary Production had a requirement to establish a new facility in the area.

3. The police station has been allocated to the Department of Primary Production for use by a stock inspector-technical officer to accelerate the TB-brucellosis eradication program.

Bridge over Georgina River

233 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does the government still intend to build a bridge in Queensland over the Georgina River at Camooweal and, if not, why not?
2. If so, (a) when will the bridge be built, (b) how much will it cost, (c) who will do the work, and (d) will the Queensland government be making any contribution?

ANSWER

The project to construct a bridge over the Georgina River at Camooweal in Queensland is not currently listed on any of our construction programs.

Following the initial agreement in principle between the governments of the Northern Territory and Queensland, the Queensland government was requested to allocate the project a higher priority in order to expedite the construction. Queensland demurred and, as a result, the project was then reviewed by the Territory government in the light of other priorities within the Territory. There were projects inside the Northern Territory which had a greater call upon available funds and these were allocated first priority.

Whilst the project has no high priority, discussions are continuing between the 2 governments which are aimed at arriving at an eventual decision to build the bridge.

Sealing of Tanami Desert Road

234 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When will work re-commence on sealing the Tanami Desert Road?
2. What distance will be sealed in (a) 1981, (b) 1982, and (c) 1983 calendar years?

ANSWER

It is not planned to commence any more major construction works on the road until 1983-84 when approximately 28 km will be sealed. However, in the intervening period, maintenance will continue and materials investigations will proceed to ensure the maximum utilization of available funds.

This road is in the arterial category and competes for funds alongside roads such as the Plenty, Arnhem, Tablelands and Buchanan Highways. The limited funds available have to be expended on a priority basis.

Sales Tax Rebate Scheme

240 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Will the government's sales tax rebate scheme result in cheaper consumer goods in the Territory?
2. Will Territory officers make regular assessments of the rebate scheme to assess the direct benefits to consumers and, if so, when will this information be made available to the public?

## ANSWER

1. Yes. The payments are specifically directed at improving the competitive position of local wholesalers over southern sources. Thus where taxable products are obtained locally the cost to the retailer can be expected to be less. It is also expected that market forces will cause this reduction to flow through the retailer to the consumer.
2. (a) Yes.
  - (b) Results of the ongoing assessments of government initiatives are reflected in changes to various schemes from time to time.

Lease Applications

249 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications were received during (a) 1978-79, (b) 1979-80, and (c) 1 July 1980-17 June 1981 for (i) horticultural leases, (ii) lease allocation to sporting groups, (iii) lease allocation to cultural groups, and (iv) applications for Aboriginal needs purposes for (A) 'sit-down' areas, and (B) excisions for pastoral leases?
2. In what regions were the above applications made?
3. Which of the above applications were (a) approved, (b) refused, (c) lapsed or withdrawn, and (d) remain unresolved?

## ANSWER

1. The following applications in the requested categories were received -

	<u>1978-79</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
(i) horticultural	10	10	16
(ii) sporting groups	17	9	11
(iii) cultural groups	11	13	8
(iv) Aboriginal - urban	17	6	5
(v) Aboriginal - rural	1	Nil	1

2. Note that the figures provided indicate less than one-tenth of the total pool of applications received by the department over the period and that they have been subject to interpretation to fit the set categories. For example, scout applications were included in the cultural category and amateur radio clubs and the like included in the sporting category.
3. No applications have been received under the guise of 'sit-down areas' and the request has been taken to mean applications lodged by Aboriginal groups in urban areas.
4. Applications have been received from both the Northern and Southern Regions.
5. The status of the applications is -

	(a) <u>Approved</u>	(b) <u>Refused</u>	(c) <u>Lapsed or withdrawn</u>	(d) <u>Unresolved</u>
(1) horticultural	11	10	10	5
(2) sporting groups	11	8	8	10
(3) cultural groups	13	6	8	5
(4) Aboriginal - urban	17	3	5	3
(5) Aboriginal - rural	1	Nil	1	Nil

A high proportion of the horticultural applications refused, lapsed or unresolved is due to existing Aboriginal land claims and final decisions can only be made as the land claims are determined.

Leanyer and Karama Subdivisions

262 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What was the median price of a single residential lot in (a) Leanyer, and (b) Karama in (i) June 1980, (ii) September 1980, (iii) December 1980, (iv) March 1981, and (v) May 1981.

ANSWER

This information is readily available from real estate agents in Darwin.

Department of Transport and Works -  
Use of Private Organisation for Staff Recruitment

265 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why did his department recently use a private organisation, P.A. Australia, to advertise in the national press for various staff?
2. How much did this service cost?
3. Does the use of P.A. Australia to recruit staff indicate that advertisements inserted by the department are not attracting applicants of quality?
4. Will he recommend the services of P.A. Australia to his colleagues and other government departments and, if so, will this mean that departmental staff previously employed to write and place advertisements will be retrenched?

ANSWER

1. During the period March-June 1981, P.A. Australia was used on 2 occasions in Australia-wide searches for staff for the Department of Transport and Works.
  - Services Division: 7 positions, mainly professional/technical and P.A. used mainly because of earlier involvement in review of plant operations.
  - Administration Division: 4 senior positions in Manpower Branch. P.A. used to seek external applicants on an Australia-wide basis.
2. Approximately \$23,000.
3. No. Firms such as P.A. are used when particular expertise or staff are not available within the department. Use of their Australia-wide interviewing facilities and ability to provide short lists of applicants leads to savings in both time and money for my department.
4. I will be providing no unsolicited advice to my colleagues or other government departments on their recruitment procedures. I endorse my department's use of all avenues of recruitment open to it to attract the desired calibre of applicants. No NTPS staff will be retrenched.

Yulara Tourist Village

266 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What guidelines have been laid down regarding the height of buildings at Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

In the document 'Development Requirements and Information for Developers' prepared by Goodchild Research Studies, developers were informed that 80% of the buildings were to be single storey and that it was permissible for

20% to be 2 storeys. However, developers were informed that the conditions were in fact guidelines and not conditions strictly binding upon them.

It now appears that the majority of developers would like to be allowed to have a greater percentage of their development in 2 storey buildings. The actual percentage will depend on negotiations between the developers and the Northern Territory Development Corporation.

Chief Minister's Department - Renting of Office Space

268 Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;
- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Attorney-General's Department - Renting of Office Space

269 Mr LEO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;
- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Treasury and Department of Industrial Development - Renting of Office Space

270 Mr LEO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 30 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;
- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Community Development - Renting of Office Space

271 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;
- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277

Department of Mines and Energy - Renting of Office Space

272 Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;
- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long to the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Health - Renting of Office Space

273 Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;
- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Education - Renting of Office Space

274 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long to the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Department of Transport and Works - Renting of Office Space

277 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- (a) what is the weekly cost;
- (b) what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- (c) where are the rented premises located; and
- (d) how long do the leases run for?

ANSWER

(Also covers questions Nos 268-278)

As my department is responsible for arranging most leases on behalf of the government I am replying to questions Nos. 268-278 on behalf of my colleagues.

(a) \$108,860.67.

(b), (c) and (d) see Table A.

Leases for honourable members' electorate offices are arranged by the Department of the Chief Minister. Details of current leases are set out on Table B. Weekly cost of the electorate offices is \$1,843.15.

TABLE A

LEASED ACCOMMODATION - 31 MAY 1981

PREMISES	TYPE	(c) LOCATION	(a) COST PER WEEK \$	(d) TERMINA- TION OF LEASE	(b) ADDRESS OF DEVELOPER OR AGENT
<u>DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER</u>					
NML Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	780.78	30. 4.84	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
MLC Building	Office	Smith St, Darwin	137.97	6. 9.81	MLC Assurance Company, P.O. Box 1554, Darwin
Centrepont	Office	The Mall, Darwin	198.47	Lease not yet fi- nalized	Chrissie Paspalis Invest., 30 Parap Road, Parap

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER - EMERGENCY SERVICES

1625 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware- house	1625 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	424.83	30. 6.82	Panagiotas Bros, P.O. Box 39192, Winnellie
Part of 1624 Coonawarra Road	Ware- house	1624 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	461.54	Lease not yet fi- nalized	Nellie Contractors P/L, P.O. Box 39158, Winnellie

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Development House	Office	Lot 5188 Esplanade, Darwin	4,307.70	2.10.90	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
DKB Building	Office	Lot 93 Todd St, Alice Springs	290.39	14.12.85	L.J. Hooker Alice Springs, 71 Bath Street, Alice Springs

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER - POLICE

Mitchell Chambers	Office	Lot 4855 Mitchell St, Darwin	360.58	1. 1.83	Manolas & Son, P.O. Box 849, Darwin
Vogliotti Bulding	Office	Lot 2317 Mitchell St, Darwin	1,833.47	12.10.85	Rescesca Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 36, Botany, NSW
1624 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware-house	Lot 1624 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	3,269.24	31.12.88	Nellie Contractors P/L, P.O. Box 39159 Winnellie
1661 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware-house	Lot 1661 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	422.12	Monthly basis	John Roussos Nominees, P.O. Box 294, Darwin
Warrego Police Station	Office	Warrego	25.00	Monthly basis	Peko Mines, P.O. Box 156, Tennant Creek

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Shop 4 Katherine	Library	Lot 513, Katherine	191.93	7.11.81	Oskeardun Nominees P/L 13 Hakea St, Nightcliff
5133 Todd Street	Office	Lot 5133, Todd St, Alice Springs	366.47	1. 6.84	Corp. of the Municipality of Alice Springs, P.O. Box 1071, Alice Springs
Cavenagh Court	Office Library	Lot 2335, Cavenagh St, Darwin	4,126.93	31.11.84	E. Koch, Cenfurn Invest., P.O. Box 970, Darwin
2440 Smith Street	Office	Lot 2440, Smith St, Darwin	476.85	Monthly basis	Kiranou Bros, P.O. Box 2613, Darwin
Part of 1721 Albatross St	Ware-house	1721 Albatross St, Winnellie	395.68	Monthly basis	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
Centrepont	Office Library	Lots 2356 & 2357, The Mall, Darwin	10,588.27	Lease not yet finalized	Chrissie Paspalis Invest., 30 Parap Road, Parap
1745 Catterthun Street	Library	1745 Catterthun St, Winnellie	602.08	1.12.90	T.&C. Investments P/L, P.O. Box 30351, Casuarina
1744 Catterthun Street	Office	1744 Catterthun St, Winnellie	316.31	8.12.81	ANZ Bank, P.O. Box 39819, Winnellie
515 Pavonia Place	Office Library	515 Pavonia Place, Nightcliff	288.77	30. 8.81	R.M. Biddlecomb, P.O. Box 38220, Winnellie

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

T & G Building	Office	Lot 2402, Smith St, Darwin	2,533.87	Monthly basis	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Tamar House	Office	Lot 2187, Mitchell St, Darwin	4,767.39	31.12.89	Maddalozzo Securities, P.O. Box 514, Darwin
1827 Bishop Street	Office Ware- house	1827 Bishop St, Darwin	1,146.06	30. 6.82	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
45 McMinn Street	Ware- house	Lot 1640, McMinn St, Darwin	480.89	Monthly basis	A.&M. Mitaros, 5 Guy Street, Darwin
MMI House	Office	Lot 1467, Cavenagh St, Darwin	460.00	11. 8.85	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Randazzo Arcade	Office	Lot 510-511, Main St, Katherine	249.24	31. 5.90	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
569 Pearce Street	Office Ware- house	569 Pearce St, Katherine	150.37	30. 6.82	Denniss Nominees, P.O. Box 1153, Katherine
Lot 4460 Elder Street	Office Ware- house	Lot 4460, Elder St, Alice Springs	300.00	31.12.81	Pedro Investments P/L, P.O. Box 1044, Alice Springs
1557 Elder Street	Office Ware- house	Lot 1557, Elder St, Alice Springs	154.52	Monthly basis	Howard & Reeves, P.O. Box 696, Alice Springs
431 Gap Road	Office	Lot 431, Gap Rd, Alice Springs	1,043.16	31.12.84	Parson Properties P/L, P.O. Box 1265, Alice Springs
1668 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware- house	Lot 1688, Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	425.24	Monthly basis	Mr Pastrikos, P.O. Box 2071, Darwin

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MLC Building	Office Ware- house	Smith St, Darwin	8,893.08	6. 9.81	MLC Assurance Corp., P.O. Box 1554, Darwin
3474 Parap Road	Office	3474 Parap Rd, Parap	367.54	Monthly basis	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
1575 Wilkinson Street	Office Ware- house	1575 Wilkinson St, Alice Springs	308.62	Monthly basis	Helm Construction, P.O. Box 322, Alice Springs
1550 Elder Street	Ware- house	1550 Elder St, Alice Springs	138.47	31.12.81	Asreal Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 404, Alice Springs

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY

Minerals House	Office	649 Espla- nade, Darwin	6,000.00	14. 2.90	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
Development House	Office	5188 Espla- nade, Darwin	861.54	2.10.90	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Randazzo Arcade	Office	Part 511, 510 Main Terrace, Katherine	76.93	Monthly basis	Randazzo Holdings P/L, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
431 Gap Road	Office	431 Gap Rd, Alice Springs	617.06	1. 1.85	Schissel, Ryan Nominees & Parsons Properties, P.O. Box 1265, Alice Springs

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Palmerston Building	Office	2365 Cavenagh St, Darwin	7,414.42	31.10.83	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Moonta House	Office	2289 Mitchell	3,139.23	Monthly	Maddalozzo Investments P/L, P.O. Box 514, Darwin
1742 Albatross Street	Ware-house	1742 Albatross St, Winnellie	372.38	28. 2.82	Politis Nominees P/L, 15 Houston St, Darwin

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

47 Knuckey Street	Office	47 Knuckey St, Darwin	429.23	31.10.83	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
Civic Centre	Office	3981 Harry Chan Drive, Darwin	1,848.00	30. 6.84	Corporation of City of Darwin, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Drive, Darwin

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION

NTHC Building	Office	Harry Chan Drive, Darwin	1,039.61	31.10.83	NT Housing Commission, P.O. Box 884, Darwin
1654 Day & Harvey Streets	Office Ware-house	1654 Day & Harvey Sts, Darwin	875.00	30. 4.82	Liveris Nominees, P.O. Box 736, Darwin
Randazzo Building	Office	Main St, Katherine	1,190.76	31. 5.90	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Katherine
444 Stuart Highway	Office	444 Stuart H'way, Alice Springs	857.44	31. 8.84	Central Realty, P.O. Box 2455, Alice Springs
60 Patterson Street	Office	60 Patterson St, Tennant Creek	98.45	1.10.82	Tennant Creek Newsagency, P.O. Box 504, Tennant Creek

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Royal Globe Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	328.84	18. 6.83	Redco Real Estate, P.O. Box 448, Darwin
Palmerston Building	Office	2365 Cavenagh St, Darwin	4,223.00	30.10.83	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
Custom Credit House	Office	2195 Smith St, Darwin	228.26	23. 9.84	Custom Credit Pty Ltd, 83 Smith Street, Darwin

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

National Mutual Life Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	815.00	30. 4.84	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
Royal Globe Arcade	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	2,712.00	18. 6.83	Redco Real Estate, P.O. Box 448, Darwin
Casuarina Bus Interchange	Office	Casuarina Shopping Square	67.50	30.10.87	Lend Lease Corporation, P.O. Box 40419, Casuarina

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

1722 Witte Street	Ware-house	1722 Witte St, Winnellie	356.00	Monthly basis	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
1629 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware-house	1629 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	1,154.00	7. 2.82	B.E. & F. Brent, P.O. Box 39251, Winnellie
1669 Coonawarra Road	Ware-house	1669 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	965.00	14. 5.83	Vrodos & Delis, P.O. Box 39469, Winnellie
1718/19 Albatross Street	Office Ware-house	1718/19 Albatross St, Winnellie	2,950.00	31. 8.82	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
1742 Albatross Street	Office Ware-house	1742 Albatross St, Winnellie	372.00	28. 2.82	Polites Nominees, P.O. Box 15 Houston Street, Darwin
Highway Arcade	Office	Lot 1727, Stuart Highway, Darwin	1,923.00	27. 5.83	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
515 Pavonia Place	Office	515 Pavonia Place, Nightcliff	268.00	30. 8.81	R.M. Biddlecombe, P.O. Box 38220, Winnellie
Sasco House	Office	Lot 2377, Cavenagh St, Darwin	8,709.00	30. 9.90	Sasco Holdings, P.O. Box 39379, Winnellie
Randazzo Arcade	Office	Main Terrace, Katherine	292.50	30. 5.90	Randazzo Holdings, P.O. Box 253, Darwin
444 Stuart Highway	Office	444 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs	857.00	31. 8.84	Central Realty, P.O. Box 2455, Alice Springs
1515 Kidman Street	Ware-house	1515 Kidman St, Alice Springs	248.55	26. 3.82	Asreal Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 404, Alice Springs
REL Building	Office	Parsons St, Alice Springs	409.61	30. 6.82	Ryan Nominees, P.O. Box 1265, Alice Springs
Hooker Building	Office	47 Mitchell St, Darwin	166.92	Monthly basis	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin

NORTHERN TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Development House	Office	Lot 5188, Esplanade, Darwin	2,369.24	2.10.90	T.C. Waters, Pepper & Co., P.O. Box 414, Darwin
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INDUSTRIES TRAINING COMMISSION

51 Todd Street	Office	51 Todd St, Alice Springs	155.90	23. 2.86	L.J. Hooker, 71 Bath Street, Alice Springs
Centrepont	Office	The Mall, Darwin	1,179.34	Lease not finalized	Chrissie Paspalis Invest., 30 Parap Road, Parap

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION

Royal Globe Building	Office	Cavenagh St, Darwin	300.00	18. 6.83	Redco Real Estate, P.O. Box 448, Darwin
Lot 98, Todd Street	Office	Todd St, Alice Springs	75.38	12. 2.82	Alice Springs Timber & Joinery, P.O. Box 381, Alice Springs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION

1517 Searcy Street	Office	1517 Searcy St, Darwin	776.01	22. 9.84	K.G. Young & Associates, P.O. Box 5459, Darwin
TIO Building	Office	89 Todd St, Alice Springs	181.73	Lease not finalized	TIO, 89 Todd Street, Alice Springs

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1624 Coonawarra Road	Office Ware-house	1624 Coonawarra Rd, Winnellie	673.51	Lease not finalized	Nellie Contractors P/L, P.O. Box 39159, Winnellie
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TABLE B  
ELECTORATE OFFICES

LOCATION	DEVELOPER/AGENT	WEEKLY COST	PERIOD OF LEASE
FAI Building Alice Springs	Webco Pty Ltd Loy Nominees E.W. & L. Sitzler Nominees Lot 1318 Brown Street Alice Springs	\$ 316.60	September 1981 with 2 year renewal
60 Cavenagh Street Darwin	McCartney (No. 43) P/L 3 Schultz Street Larrakeyah	\$ 106.85	September 1981 with 2 year renewal
Shop 23 Rapid Creek Shopping Centre, Darwin	Lend Lease Agencies P.O. Box 40419 Casuarina	\$ 140.95	12 monthly tenancy December 1982
Commonwealth Bank Building, Katherine	Katherine Enterprises P.O. Box 132, Katherine	\$ 31.15	12 monthly tenancy October 1981
Shop 2 Parap Shopping Centre Darwin	G & M Investments c/- Wilson Bishop & Henderson Cavenagh Street, Darwin	\$ 120.00	July 1982 with 2 year renewal
Gillen Shopping Centre, Alice Springs	Clough Nominees Park Nominees c/- Tomac Real Estate P.O. Box 820 Alice Springs	\$ 151.55	June 1982 with 1 year renewal
12 Parsons Street Alice Springs	Asreal Pty Ltd P.O. Box 404 Alice Springs	\$ 95.20	12 monthly tenancy October 1981
Shops 19 and 20 Rapid Creek Shopping Centre, Darwin	Lend Lease Agencies P.O. Box 40419 Casuarina	\$ 281.35	12 monthly tenancy December 1981
Endeavour Square Nhulunbuy	Nabalco Pty Ltd Nhulunbuy	\$ 36.70	12 monthly licence agreement November 1981
Shop 3, Nightcliff Shopping Centre Nightcliff	Mr J.C. Saltmarsh P.O. Box 1529 Darwin	\$ 122.30	12 monthly tenancy March 1982

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Suite 3, Star Village Darwin	Harris Holdings P/L P.O. Box 133 Darwin	\$ 65.00	12 monthly tenancy September 1981
Wulagi Shopping Centre, Wulagi Sanderson	Dr S. Qureshi 25 Wulagi Crescent Wulagi, Sanderson	\$ 150.00	12 monthly tenancy February 1982
King Street Stuart Park, Darwin	Ampol Petroleum P/L G.P.O. Box 2372 Adelaide	\$ 80.00	March 1982, monthly renewal
Howard Springs Shopping Centre Howard Springs	A. Thiel Pty Ltd Whitewood Road Howard Springs	\$ 93.00	12 monthly tenancy June 1981
Commonwealth Bank Building Arcade Katherine	Katherine Enterprises P.O. Box 132 Katherine	\$ 52.50	12 monthly tenancy September 1981

Youth, Sport and Recreation Area - Renting of Office Space

278 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

In regard to office and warehouse space rented by his department from private enterprise developers as at 31 May 1981 -

- what is the weekly cost;
- what are (i) the names, and (ii) business addresses of the developers involved;
- where are the rented premises located; and
- how long to the leases run for?

ANSWER

The above question will be answered by the Minister for Transport and Works. Please refer to answer to question No. 277.

Public Housing in NT - Waiting Time

284 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- What was the approximate waiting time, in months, for general public housing by centres in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in the dwelling categories of (i) 4-bedroom house, (ii) 3-bedroom house, (iii) 2-bedroom flat, and (iv) 1-bedroom flat?
- What was the general public housing stock by centres at (a) 30 June 1980, and (b) 30 June 1981 for the dwelling categories of (i) 4-bedroom house, (ii) 3-bedroom house, (iii) 2-bedroom flat, and (iv) 1-bedroom flat?

ANSWER

The following tables, based on the records of the Northern Territory Housing Commission, provide the information requested:

1. Waiting Time for General Public Housing - By Centres - 1979-80 and 1980-81

	<u>4-Bedroom House</u>		<u>3-Bedroom House</u>		<u>2-Bedroom Flat</u>		<u>1-Bedroom Flat</u>	
	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
Darwin	13	20	15	18	9	10	6	12
Alice Springs	12	13	12	14	7	12	12	21
Tennant Creek	36	(a)	6	10	12	18	15	10

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Katherine	-	-	9	15	11	13	11	8
Nhulunbuy	-	18	8	25	-	24	-	-
Other Centres	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Waiting list cancelled, owing to lack of stocks.

n.a. Not available.

- Nil or negligible.

2. General Public Housing Stock - By Centres - 1979-80 and 1980-81

	<u>4-Bedroom House</u>		<u>3-Bedroom House</u>		<u>2-Bedroom Flat</u>		<u>1-Bedroom Flat</u>	
	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Darwin	178	177	1,788	1,957	270(b)	404(b)	247	240
Alice Springs	49	46	630(c)	648(c)	232(d)	256(d)	44	44
Tennant Creek	9	9	206	241	10	11(e)	11	15
Katherine	1	1	164	155	25	25	37	44
Nhulunbuy	-	-	30	30	-	-	-	-
Other Centres	4	4	40	33	-	5(f)	-	-
TOTAL	241	237	2,858	3,064	537	701	339	343

(b) Includes nine 2-bedroom houses.

(c) Includes ten 3-bedroom medium density units.

(d) Includes twenty-two 2-bedroom houses.

(e) Includes one 2-bedroom house

(f) Five 2-bedroom houses.

- Nil or negligible.

Public Housing in NT - Statistics

288 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- How many families were accommodated in general public housing in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?
- How many applications for housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

ANSWER

The following tables, based on the records of the Northern Territory Housing Commission, provide the information requested. The answer to part 1 of the question is provided in the form of 'applicants accommodated' rather than 'families accommodated' as the information provided includes some single persons (pensioners).

1. Applicants Accommodated in General Public Housing: By Specified Centres

	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
Darwin	515	729
Alice Springs	237	272
Tennant Creek	81	97
Katherine	72	66
Nhulunbuy	15	10
Pine Creek	4	4

2. Cancelled Applications for General Public Housing: By Specified Centres

	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
Darwin	358	467
Alice Springs	142	173
Tennant Creek	17	67
Katherine	42	53
Nhulunbuy	16	24
Pine Creek	2	1

Housing Commission - Cost of Organisation Review

293 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What was the cost of engaging management consultants, P.A. Consulting Services Pty Ltd, in February 1979 to review the organisation of the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

The cost of the consultancy, the purpose of which was to conduct a review of the NT Housing Commission's organisation, structure, staffing and systems, was \$19,000.

Mines Services Branch - Expenditure on Roads 1979-80

294 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What amount was expended on road construction and maintenance by the Mines Services Branch of his department during 1979-80?
2. Where were the roads located and what length of road construction was involved?

ANSWER

The Dorisvale road was contributed to by the Department of Mines and Energy to the extent of \$60,000 in 1978-79. This money is to be repaid by the company operating the Dorisvale Barites Mine, Barroid Australia Pty Ltd, in 10 annual instalments of \$6,000.

Funding for further road maintenance and upgrading was to be provided by the Department of Transport and Works.

The question refers to actual expenditure on mines roads in 1979-80. The Department of Mines and Energy made its contribution to the Dorisvale road project in 1978-79 and has made no further payments. All 1979-80 expenditure was by the Department of Transport and Works. All accounting for the road project has also been done by that department.

Further questions on this subject should be referred to the Minister for Transport and Works.

Plenty River Mine

295 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Has the production of concentrates commenced at the Plenty River mine situated some 200 km north-east of Alice Springs?
2. If production has not commenced when is it likely to commence?

ANSWER

According to a 28 July 1981 telephone report from the department's Resid-

ent Inspector of Mines stationed in Alice Springs, concentrate production has not started at the Plenty River mine.

According to our Inspector of Mines, operating officials at the Plenty River mine anticipate concentrate production to commence about 2 to 3 months from now.

Harts Range Gem Survey

296 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What were the findings of the survey of gems and precious stones in the Harts Range area?
2. What other such surveys have been or are to be undertaken in the northern region of the Territory?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Geological Survey made a thorough investigation of reported occurrences of various semi-precious stones of interest to fossickers and lapidarists. Most significant occurrences in the Harts Range have become well known by word of mouth in various gem and lapidary clubs. No new discoveries were made but several little known occurrences were better documented and a much wider range of minerals detailed for some localities.

Northern Territory Geological Survey Report 80/3, 'A Fossicker's Guide to the Mines and Mineral Localities of the Harts Range, NT' by C. Horsfall, D. Moore and R. Thompson was completed in March 1980. This report has not been published, but has been on open-file reference lists in the departmental offices in Darwin and Alice Springs. Copies of sections of this report and the various locality plans have been provided to tourists, fossickers and other interested people.

A draft report 'Some Areas to Fossick in Northern and Central Northern Territory' by J.W. Shields was completed in July 1981 and is currently being checked and edited.

It is intended to consolidate information from both these reports into a concise pamphlet which will be published and made available at a reasonable cost to tourists and fossickers.

The Mining Act 1980 makes provision for the declaration of fossicking areas and the establishment of conditions for the management of these areas. The Northern Territory Geological Survey is actively investigating potential areas. Temporary reserves have been placed on 4 localities pending the commencement of the new Act.

McArthur River Mining Development Feasibility Study

297 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What firm of consultants was employed to review the feasibility study submitted by Mimets Development Pty Ltd on the McArthur River mining development?
2. What was the cost of employing those consultants?

ANSWER

In the interests of the Territory's development, the government has pursued the earliest possible development of the McArthur River project. To this end it was necessary to employ consultants to review the 30-volume detailed technical and economic feasibility study submitted by Mimets Development Pty Ltd. The employment of consultants was given careful

consideration in order to obtain the best possible independent advice available. Because of their repute and metallurgical expertise, Wright Engineers Pty Ltd, a Canadian-based company, was selected. Wright Engineers utilised the services of a second consultant, selected from a short list supplied by the Department of Mines and Energy, to evaluate metal price trends over the next decade.

The expenditure involved was \$100,000. This allowed Wright Engineers to provide a comprehensive, independent assessment of the McArthur River project feasibility report - it has been money well spent. The consultants verified that the project, using conventional metallurgical processes, would not be viable within the foreseeable future. However, they were able, from a thorough evaluation of the 20 years of research work that has already gone into the McArthur River metallurgical problem, to suggest new lines of attack. This may be the breakthrough needed to bring the deposit into production.

I am pleased to say that the company has agreed to commence new programs of research to evaluate the Wright Engineers proposals thoroughly. This additional research, including the necessary pilot plant phases, is expected to last 5 years. The McArthur deposit might ultimately generate annual revenue of \$500 million and annual royalty payments under the proposed royalty bill of \$20-30 million.

#### Metallurgical Research Centre Equipment

298 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the value of equipment installed at the Metallurgical Research Centre in the financial year 1979-80?
2. What was the total cost of equipping the centre to fully operational stage?

#### ANSWER

1. In the 1979-80 budget, provision was made to purchase equipment for use in the Metallurgical Pilot Plant and the associated laboratory facility.

Eighteen items of equipment were purchased for a total value of \$50,640, the price of the costliest item, an Eritz magnetic separator, being \$14,079.

2. The total cost of equipping the Metallurgical Pilot Plant and the associated laboratory facility was \$78,181.

The plant was initially established with rehabilitated and modified second-hand equipment. This was followed by designing and fabricating plant items, as required, in the department's workshop. Steel used for fabrication came from old stock from Mt Wells battery.

Second-hand equipment was salvaged from mines that had abandoned operations, at negligible cost. The actual costs incurred for transport and rehabilitation were absorbed in the operational cost provision.

The value of the upgraded second-hand equipment is inestimable, as replacement cost of this equipment with new would entail a very high capital expenditure.

This year mining operators have been able to fabricate treatment plants for mine site operations as a result of tests carried out on their ores. It is estimated that they have expended over \$500,000 to date in fabricating plants from flowsheets recommended by the Metallurgical Research Centre.

If the present trend continues, more prospectors and miners who have viable operations will be providing their own treatment plants instead of being dependent on departmental treatment facilities. This will more than compensate for the terminated departmental service at Mt Wells.

Eighteen projects are being handled by the plant at present, some of them for consultant mining engineers and consultant geologists whose services are being utilised by Territory miners.

Department of Mines and Energy Construction Safety Branch

299 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What action is in hand to ensure that the construction safety branch of his department can perform its functions effectively, given that in the financial year 1979-80 inspections were carried out on 1,831 of the 3,059 applicable sites?

ANSWER

Since 1979-80, 2 new positions have been created for Inspectors of Construction Safety.

Due to the lead time recruiting and training inspectors, their effect will not be appreciably noticed until 1981-82. It is estimated that the construction safety inspections carried out will be in excess of 3,800 for 1981-82.

Many of the work sites to be inspected are houses under construction. At the end of 1980-81 there were 4,400 applicable sites with approximately 1,900 of a domestic type. When compared with other large construction projects, housing work is considered of low priority.

The frequency of inspections is determined on the basis of type of work, hazards to the worker, protection required by the public and location of the site with respect to the location of the inspector.

Efforts have been made to increase inspector efficiency and this has resulted in the number of inspections per month per inspector increasing from 38 in 1979-80 to 56 by the end of 1980-81

Department of Mines and Energy - Inspection of Machinery

300 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What provision has been made to ensure that his department is able to meet the increasing demand for inspections of machinery, given that the number of inspections carried out by the department in the financial year 1979-80 represented only two-thirds of the total number of machines registered?

ANSWER

This increased work load is recognised and attempts to overcome it have been made by -

- (a) recruiting a mechanical engineer as head of the Machinery Inspection Branch to give organisational and technical support;
- (b) employing a technical officer for reviewing machinery designs;
- (c) providing a mobile communication system for use by the inspectors;  
and
- (d) placing inspection information on computer, thus decreasing the paper-work for inspectors.

For the future, the Industrial Safety Division is currently investigating what changes should be made to the Inspection of Machinery Act. It must

be borne in mind that the existing Act is 40 years old and the concept of inspecting all machinery on an annual basis is probably outdated, taking into account modern technology and inspection techniques.

Submissions have been made for additional inspector positions in the current budget.

Due to promotions, transfers and resignations, the department has only recently reached full inspector strength. The training of these new inspectors does take time, however, and their effect will not be immediately noticeable.

Inspections are carried out on a priority basis, taking into account the type of machinery and the hazard it presents to the worker and the public.

Noble's Nob Mine

301 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What were the findings of investigations into the stability of the slopes of the Noble's Nob open cut mine at Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

In May 1980 the department's Geological Survey Division investigated the stability of slopes at the Noble's Nob open pit mine. This investigation did not reveal any sign of overall slope failure but did conclude that possible hydrological change could reduce stability. Accordingly the department has informed the mine management of the potential hazards. The mine management and the department are jointly examining various options to ensure the continuing safety of the mine. Meanwhile the department's resident Inspector of Mines maintains a continuing surveillance of the condition of the pit.

Coal and Lignite Resources

302 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. At what stage are the detailed studies into lignite and coal resources being undertaken by his department?
2. Are any preliminary results available from the above investigations?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Geological Survey has completed a full review of all coal and lignite occurrences in the Northern Territory. This involved an investigation of all reported 'coal' occurrences by a detailed search of historical records, field inspection and, where necessary, diamond drilling.

Eleven diamond drill holes, varying in depth between 40 and 200 metres, totalling 1,321 metres, were drilled in the Alice Springs area during March and April this year.

Five areas were selected for drilling on the basis of information from water bores and previous investigations - Santa Teresa Mission, the Burt Plain, the Hale River near Ambalindum, Tea Tree and Mt Wedge.

Previous drilling by my department had tested the Hugh River, Tempe Downs, Paddys Plain and Finke areas.

Carbonaceous material was encountered in 9 of the holes with the best intersections being 30 metres of carbonaceous clay and lignite between 35 and 65 metres in 81 ST 1 at Santa Teresa, 50 metres of carbonaceous silt and clay between 125 and 175 metres in 81 BP 1 on the Burt Plain, 6 metres of carbonaceous clay and lignite between 28 and 34 metres in 81 HR 2 on

the Hale River and 20 metres of carbonaceous sandstone between 120 and 140 metres in 81 NB 1 at Mt Wedge.

Samples of carbonaceous material from 6 of the holes are currently being analysed by the Australian Coal Industry Research Laboratories at North Ryde.

Analyses from the previous drilling indicated that the carbonaceous material is of very poor quality and unlikely to provide an economic energy source.

The following table provides a comparison of these results with other Australian coals.

A comprehensive final report will be issued when all analyses are available.

Figures from Joint Coal Board - Review Australian Black Coal - 1981 Edition

	Ash %	Sulphur %	Specific Energy MJ/Kg
NEW SOUTH WALES COAL			
Singleton	6.3	1.43	33.84
Newcastle	16.3	0.51	33.59
South Coast	9.2	0.51	34.91
QUEENSLAND COAL			
Ipswich	16.5	0.50	32.31
Bowen Basin	11.8	0.49	31.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COAL			
Leigh Creek	23.6	0.61	30.00
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COAL			
Collie	2.6	0.32	33.98
VICTORIAN COAL			
Yallourn	1.7	0.30	26.0
Morwell	3.2	0.40	26.5
NORTHERN TERRITORY COAL			
Hale River 2	65.4	0.60	21.04
Hale River 5	77.6	4.39	15.81

#### Palm Leaf Beetle

307 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

- (a) What progress has been made in the eradication of the coconut leaf beetle?
- (b) What cost has been incurred to date in the eradication program?
- (c) What is the expected level of success and what is the anticipated total cost of the eradication program?

#### ANSWER

- (a) It should be noted that the name 'Palm Leaf Beetle' (PLB) has been officially adopted for this insect in the Territory because, although coconuts are its usual host, the pest infrequently attacks other palm species, such as Royals, Carpentarias and Alexandras.

Attempts to eradicate PLB in the central Darwin area were discontinued in February 1981, following the discovery of a well established infestation at Nakara, 9 kilometres outside the then existing quarantine area. The latter was therefore revoked by notice in the Government Gazette,

Sl of 20 February 1981, as was the notifiable status Brontispa longissima gestro (the palm leaf beetle).

Since that time there has been an on going drive by my department and the Darwin City Council to inform the public on how to recognise and control the beetle and to warn against its accidental spread to new areas.

- (b) The total cost of the eradication program was \$53,700, excluding the salary component of staff in my department who carried out survey and supervisory work in the course of their normal duties.
- (c) The program is no longer aimed at eradication but at a high level of control.

A comparatively high level of success can be expected in Darwin using biological control but this will need to be adequately tested in the laboratory and approved by the Commonwealth government.

#### Ornamental Nursery Industry Consultants

309 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

- (a) Who was the private consultant engaged by the government to report on the potential of the ornamental nursery industry in the Northern Territory?
- (b) Will this report be made available to the public and, if so, when?
- (c) What was the cost of commissioning the study?

ANSWER

- (a) The consultant engaged to report on the potential of the ornamental nursery industry in the Northern Territory was Mr J.H. Colwell.
- (b) The report was made available to the NT Nurserymen's Association.
- (c) The cost of commissioning the study was \$5,000.

#### Seed Production in NT

310 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What plans has the government implemented or does it intend to implement to assist Territory seed producers to overcome the financial, management and technical limitations they presently face?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is assisting seed producers in the following ways:

1. Finance is being made available for seed producers through the Northern Territory Development Corporation to assist the producer in his costs of planting or for upgrading his farm structure, for purchase of machinery, and so on.
2. The Northern Territory government operates a fertiliser freight subsidy scheme on amounts of fertiliser in excess of 2 tonnes. Seed producers are eligible to apply for this concession.
3. The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority has a full-time marketing officer and his services are available to seed producers to assist them in marketing their produce. ADMA is setting up a grain storage facility at Katherine which will include a cool store for seed which will assist in the maintenance of seed quality.

4. The Department of Primary Production assists seed growers through extension advice, quality control on seed production, the seed testing and research programs directed towards seed production, seed quality and the storage of seeds. The Department of Primary Production is also able to give advice on the economics of seed production. Seeds legislation has been prepared to protect seed producers by ensuring the maintenance of high seed quality.

Australian Fishing Zone Observer Program

313 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many people have been trained under the Australian Fishing Zone Observer program?
2. How many vessels were chartered under the Australian Fishing Zone program in 1979-80 and in 1980-81?
3. What contribution to the Australian Fishing Zone Observer program is made by the NT government?

ANSWER

1. Ten persons have been employed on a limited tenure basis as observers and one further person is employed at this time as a Senior Technical Office Grade I in charge. Personnel employed under the observer program have been selected on their research or fishing industry background as well as their indicated ability to work under limited supervision.
2. Three vessels in 1979-80 and 2 in 1980-81 were chartered under the observer program as seagoing platforms.
3. The Northern Territory government employs a Senior Technical Officer Grade I and up to 4 observers on a limited tenure basis on behalf of the Commonwealth and all costs are reimbursed. The team works in close conjunction with other existing fisheries research, management and extension staff and is administered through the normal departmental administration.

Management Services Division - Staff Establishment

314 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

- (a) What was the staff establishment in the Management Services Division of the Department of Primary Production as at 1 July 1981?
- (b) What was the staff establishment as at 1 July 1981 in the (i) Finance Branch, (ii) Personnel Branch, (iii) outposted liaison units, (iv) Registry, and (v) Library?

ANSWER

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

<u>Total establishment at 1 July 1981</u>		<u>Staff as at 1 July 1981</u>	
	52		51
Finance Branch	21		20
Personnel	10		9
Library	2		2
Registry	6		6
Other Areas	13		14

With regard to question (b) (iii), the department no longer has outposted liaison units.

There are, however, 22 staff including keyboard operators performing administrative functions situated as follows:

Fisheries	8
Berrimah Research Farm	3
Alice Springs	7
Katherine	2
Agriculture and Stock North Directorate	2

These 22 positions are not included in the establishment of the Management Services Division but are included in the establishment of the above branches.

Prawn Fishery

316 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has the government investigated the state of the Territory prawn fishing industry in respect of -

- (a) the impact on the local industry of foreign fishing vessels operating in Territory waters;
- (b) the returns to the Territory from licences purchased by foreign operators relative to returns to those operators; and
- (c) the production costs of the local operators compared with the production costs of foreign vessels?

ANSWER

- (a) All foreign vessels operating in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory under bilateral licensing agreements with the Commonwealth are excluded from prawn trawl grounds fished by Australian vessels.
- (b) (i) All foreign vessels approved to operate in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory are doing so in waters under Commonwealth jurisdiction.
- (ii) Under Commonwealth legislation such vessels are required to have crew licences and vessel licences.
- (iii) Dependent upon the nature of the fishing agreement negotiated, foreign vessels may be required to pay an access fee on the anticipated catch quota allocation.
- (iv) Under existing negotiated foreign fishing agreements the Northern Territory receives no direct revenue from foreign vessel licensing or negotiated access fees.
- (v) The Northern Territory does, however, receive an undetermined indirect benefit from the operation of foreign vessels in adjacent waters: by gaining access to previously unavailable information on the fish resources; through use of Northern Territory port facilities (i.e. inspections, victualling, crew shore leave, pilotage and mooring, &c.); and employment of staff on a reimbursement basis, including equipment costs.
- (iv) Recognising that licences under Northern Territory legislation are not required under the foreign fishing agreements negotiated and operating to date, no comparison can be made with the benefits that are derived from Australian vessels holding Northern Territory fishing licences.
- (c) No comparison can be made between the presently negotiated foreign fishing vessel operation as it relates to production costs as such

vessels are:

- foreign built, owned and operated;
- in some instances, are subsidised by the respective government;
- not required to land all catch;
- harvesting resources not currently exploited by Australians and in many cases would not be exploited by Australians for domestic consumption; and
- the product prepared aboard the foreign vessels is in accordance with foreign requirements and not in accordance with Australian export standards.

Funding of Roadworks Tennant Creek Area

318 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Tennant Creek area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately \$12.563m. This figure includes expenditure on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Funding of Roadworks Katherine Area

319 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided for roadworks in the Katherine area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately \$8.283m. This figure includes expenditures on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Funding of Roadworks Alice Springs Area

320 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Alice Springs area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately \$10,652m. This figure includes expenditure on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Funding of Roadworks Darwin Area

321 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much money was provided by the NT government for roadworks in the Darwin area during 1980-81?

ANSWER

Approximately \$14,440m. This figure includes expenditure on capital works, repairs and maintenance, and Aboriginal community internal roads.

Beef Prices - Discrepancy between Top End and Central Australia

326 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he explain why fat steers and breeders bring up to \$60 per head more in Central Australia than they do in the Top End despite the fact that the United States is the target destination of all Territory beef?

ANSWER

The prices paid for cattle traded with Northern Territory abattoirs are determined by private negotiations between buyers and sellers. Therefore, price differentials between regions are due to either differences in the traded cattle that justify the price differentials or differences in the relative bargaining power of the buyers and sellers in the regions.

Differences exist between the carcass weights of cattle, especially steers, traded in Central Australia and those traded in the Top End. The average dressed carcass weights of steers and cows slaughtered at Alice Springs in 1980 were 14 and 16 kg heavier respectively than steers and cows slaughtered at Katherine. These differences in carcass weights, and the associated differences in bone-out yields, are not sufficiently large to account for the total price differential.

The condition of the hides is a further quality factor influencing the difference in cattle prices in the 2 regions. Hides from the northern, tick-affected area, are not as valuable as sound hides from the tick-free areas.

The relative competitive position of Centralian cattle producers is enhanced by their access to alternative markets via low-cost rail transport. To compete, Central Australian abattoirs must offer prices that are at least equal to Adelaide prices less the transportation costs. In comparison, the bargaining position of Top End beef producers is reduced due to the fact that road transport to alternative markets is comparatively costly. Furthermore, the condition of many Top End slaughter cattle increases the possibility of significant losses in long-transit hauls unless the cattle are adequately spelled en-route. This further increases the cost of transportation to alternative markets.

Finally, the Alice Springs abattoir throughput is less markedly seasonal than the throughput at Katherine. This reduces operating costs and provides scope for a competitive price edge.

Beef Sales - Woolworths and Coles

327 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he bring to the attention of Woolworths and Coles managements in Darwin the fact that beef of comparable quality to that imported by their organisations is available in the Territory?

ANSWER

Yes.

Workmen's Compensation Case - Mr F. Fenson

328 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to the case of Mr F. Fenson, stores supervisor in the Katherine Regional Office of his department, who injured his knee while travelling on duty on 24 March 1981, and ask: was his department responsible for the delay in dealing with Mr Fenson's application for compensation, or does the fault lie with the Commissioner for Employees Compensation in Canberra?

ANSWER

There does not appear to be any undue delay either in my department or the Commissioner's office in Canberra. Now that Mr Fenson has completed the consent forms, medical reports and x-rays necessary to pursue the claim further have been sought from his doctors. However, it would appear that Mr Fenson's claim is not a simple one and may take some time to resolve.

Katherine Terrace - Maintenance of Pavements

329 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the government responsible for maintenance of pavements in Katherine Terrace and, if so, when will they be upgraded?

ANSWER

The footpaths in Katherine Terrace are the responsibility of my department. Funds are allocated this year for extensions on the southern side of the town centre.

There has been considerable damage to footpaths within the business area caused by private developers using heavy equipment. These sections will be reinstated and action will be taken to have the companies involved cover the remedial costs.

Government Accounts - One-stop Payment Office

331 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the government establish a one-stop shop for payment of government accounts for water, sewerage and motor vehicle registration, electricity accounts and Housing Commission rents in a ground floor, central position in Katherine, bearing in mind that the town is 8 km long and has no public transport?

ANSWER

Accounts for water and sewerage rates and motor vehicle registration fees are payable annually to the Department of Transport and Works, Giles Street Depot, situated approximately 1 km from the Katherine post office.

The Housing Commission office is situated on the first floor of the Commonwealth Trading Bank building next to the post office. Although the Electricity Commission has re-located its office to the power station site on the Victoria Highway, arrangements have been made for payment of electricity accounts at the ANZ Bank near the post office.

While the one-stop shop concept has a lot to commend it from the point of view of the public, it also gives rise to some inconvenience when members of the public wish to query accounts. It is not always possible for a cashier who is accepting payments on behalf of a number of departments and authorities to answer such queries satisfactorily.

Northmeat Farm Sorghum Production Figures

332 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the Katherine Informer of 22 December 1980 for the sale of Katherine Downs station which stated that the "Adjoining 'Northmeat Farm' produced 7 consecutive crops of sorghum averaging over 1 tonne/acre and carried 2,000 cattle on 2,800 ha"?

If so, is he able to confirm the production figures and carrying capacity of the 'Northmeat Farm' and, if not, will he institute proceedings against the advertiser for misleading prospective buyers?

ANSWER

I have seen the advertisement referred to by the honourable member and feel that the correctness or otherwise of this advertisement is not for me to confirm.

Production statistics on individual farms are confidential. For this reason, there are no published figures on individual property yields.

If the honourable member believes the advertisement to be false or misleading, he should refer it to the Commonwealth Trade Practices Commission, Brisbane office (for investigation under the Trade Practices Act) or the Northern Territory Commissioner of Consumer Affairs (for investigation under the False Advertising Act).

Government-funded Workshop in Katherine

333 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the Katherine Advertiser of 6 August 1981 calling tenders for the right to operate a government-funded mechanical repair workshop in Katherine and, if so, will he ensure that similar private enterprise facilities in the town are not unfairly affected by such a workshop?

ANSWER

No, my attention has not been drawn to the advertisement.

Bushfires Regulations

334 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is he aware that bushfires damage native pastures in the Darwin and Gulf district every year?
2. If so, and on the assumption that some grass of whatever quality is better than no grass at all, will he ensure that Bushfires Regulations are strictly policed in the district to prevent stock and feed losses?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. I support this and will refer the matter to the appropriate minister.

Cattle and Buffalo Nutrition Research

335 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What research is being undertaken into nutrition for cattle and buffaloes in the higher rainfall areas of the Territory?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production is engaged in a number of joint projects on Mt Bunday Station, some of which relate specifically to the nutrition of the cattle in the region.

In addition, the results of several years of research into cattle and buffalo nutrition on the Coastal Plains Research Station are being prepared for publication.

Furthermore there is close liaison between the department and CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures with a view to developing optimum strategies for pasture utilization and improvement in higher rainfall areas carrying cattle or buffaloes.

Beef Industry Consultative Committee

336 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does he intend to seek advice from the Beef Industry Consultative Committee on tuberculosis eradication and meat processing?

ANSWER

The Beef Industry Consultative Committee consists of persons drawn from

all sectors of the Northern Territory beef industry - pastoralists, meat processors (from both the domestic and export trade), livestock carriers, live animal exporters, the Department of Primary Production and the trade unions. The secretary to the committee is an agricultural economist.

When the BICC was established a year ago, I emphasized that mutual access between myself and the industry would remain unrestricted.

The consultative committee does provide a useful means of communication between the various sectors of the industry and with the government.

The BICC provides information and advice relating to tuberculosis eradication and meat processing.

Beef Prices - Effect of Contract Shed

337 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will Norwest Beef Industries' change to a 'contract shed' at Katherine result in producers receiving higher prices for their cattle?

ANSWER

Higher prices for cattle are not automatically guaranteed by the change to a contract shed. Norwest Beef Industries apparently anticipate that changing to a contract shed will reduce their labour operating costs. However, prices received will continue to be the result of private negotiations between buyers and sellers and will, in part, reflect the strength of their respective bargaining positions. Prices will also depend on the strength of the market at the time.

Land Auctions in Katherine

338 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will auction sales be held in Katherine for industrial and residential land?

ANSWER

The next land sales for Katherine have been programmed for 10 November 1981.

It is proposed to offer 14 residential allotments for sale by application over the counter, and 9 industrial allotments for sale by auction on that date.

Racecourse Reserve Katherine

339 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Katherine Municipality requires the Racecourse Reserve to be re-dedicated?
2. If so, will he instruct his officers to act immediately to meet the municipality's requirements?

ANSWER

The application to re-dedicate the Katherine Racecourse Reserve is being considered by my department.

To date a satisfactory explanation of why the existing pound reserve over lot 622 Katherine cannot be used has not been offered. In fact the corporation has recently indicated that it wishes to improve access to the site.

The revocation and re-dedication of reserves is a lengthy administrative

procedure and I am reluctant to instruct my department to commence revocation actions where a need has not been demonstrated. If a need is demonstrated, the implications of having 2 pound reserves and no racecourse in Katherine will need to be considered.

My department will again approach the Town Clerk in Katherine to clarify the position and if necessary immediate action will be taken to re-dedicate the Katherine Racecourse Reserve.

Agricultural Lease Valuations Katherine

340 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that agricultural leases in the Katherine municipality have been revalued to what lessees consider exorbitant values?
2. As zoning and other regulations prevent subdivision of these leases, will differential rating be introduced for agricultural leases?

ANSWER

All land within municipal boundaries is valued by the Valuer-General for rating purposes. The values determined are based on actual sales of comparable properties and the values determined for rating, I understand, are on the conservative side. Owners have the opportunity to object to the valuation notices sent out by the Valuer-General.

The question of differential ratings is a local government matter and should be referred to the Minister for Community Development who, together with his colleagues of the Local Government Ministers' Conference, have been actively pursuing this matter.

Failures of NT Stations

341 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that productive stations such as Cresswell Downs, Walhallow, Eva Downs, Anthony Lagoon and Beetaloo are practically deserted?
2. If so, (a) is he alarmed at this fact, and (b) can he say whether it is caused by CSR's and other owners' inability to cope with local conditions or by other reasons?

ANSWER

1. The compliance situation of the pastoral leases mentioned at last inspection were:

Cresswell Downs - passing visit in June 1981 showed serious lack of maintenance, management is from Walhallow, full inspection due September 1981.

Walhallow - last inspection September 1978 showed lease in compliance.

Eva Downs - last inspection July 1979 showed lease in compliance but managed from Walhallow.

Anthony Lagoon - at last inspection, September 1979, showed serious lack of maintenance, referred to Land Board which recommended compliance by 1 July 1982. A destocking (disease control) program resulted in turnoff of 20,334 in 1980.

Beetaloo - there is a long standing development and maintenance situation resulting in forfeiture action and proposed mortgagee sale culminating in an Aboriginal land claim.

2. (a) The situation in all cases is of some concern and is not helped by the current downturn in the beef economy.

(b) Apart from the depression in the beef economy, reasons are not known.

Legislation on the Rights of the Disabled

342 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What action, if any, has been taken during the International Year of the Disabled Person regarding rights for the disabled in government legislation?

ANSWER

This matter has been reviewed by the Regional Committees on the Handicapped which advise the minister. This review has included examining legislation initiatives undertaken by New South Wales and South Australia.

The committees, which include disabled members, have recommended against legislating in the Northern Territory. Rather, the committees have suggested that the government promote programs such as improved access, employment, and rehabilitation which assist disabled people to participate more fully in community and work activities.

This strategy is supported by the government as best achieving the aims of IYDP and resources have been allocated towards this end.

The Northern Territory Building Regulations are in process of amendment to enable better facilities as a matter of course for disabled people.

Grants to Ethnic Schools

343 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which part-time ethnic schools providing instruction on a part-time basis in community language and related cultural material in the Northern Territory are in receipt of the newly available grants from the Schools Commission of up to \$30 per student per annum?

ANSWER

There has been no announcement to date by the Commonwealth that any of the part-time ethnic schools in the Northern Territory have been approved to receive the \$30 special grant. However, the Commonwealth Schools Commission has written to the ethnic groups outlining conditions for funding and enclosing application forms.

As it is anticipated that a large number of applications will be submitted following the advisory letter, there may be initial delay in approvals.

You will be aware that part-time schools operate in the Territory for Chinese, Greek, Italian and Arabic languages.

Aborigines - Imprisonment Rates

344 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the Aboriginal male and female rate of imprisonment in the Northern Territory for the last 3 years?
2. How many of the offences were alcohol related?

ANSWER

1. It has not been the practice to identify the racial origins of prisoners in Northern Territory institutions for many years and thus I am unable to provide the Leader of the Opposition with the figures he requires.

However, the National Aboriginal Council has recently approached correctional administrators throughout Australia stating they believed

Aboriginal to be over-represented in prison populations and failure to identify the Aboriginal component made it difficult to assess the size of the problem. The National Aboriginal Council therefore requested such statistics to be kept.

As a result of these representation, Correctional Services in the Northern Territory have commenced keeping these statistics and I am able to say that as at 31 July 1981, 146 Aboriginal males and 3 Aboriginal females were held of a total prison population of 263 inmates. That is, little over 55% of all prisoners were Aboriginals.

2. Because it is not possible to identify who were Aboriginal prisoners and who were not before July of this year, it is not possible to identify the offences for which they were imprisoned. The problem is compounded by the fact that the description of the offence for which a person is imprisoned does not indicate whether the person had been consuming alcohol at the time at which it was committed.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

348 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he advise the present status of the program to carry out further rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine area?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth has accepted in principle that the Territory would take the responsibility for conducting the work required to rehabilitate Rum Jungle using Commonwealth funds.

Discussions have been held between Territory and Commonwealth officials for exchange of engineering information and documentation as a basis for the design of the rehabilitation works to be undertaken. These revealed a need for further site investigations before a detailed operational program can be finalised.

A program of site investigations was submitted to the Commonwealth and \$200,000 will be made available in the first instance. On site work has been initiated and consultation with the Commonwealth is in progress to finalise the investigations necessary, leading to an engineering report in early 1982 which will form the basis of the detailed operational plan for rehabilitation called for by the Commonwealth.

Nabarlek - Spillage of Contaminated Material

349 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will he provide a detailed report of the release into the environment of contaminated material from the uranium mine at Nabarlek?
2. What action will be taken against the company for failing to report this incident and denying that it had occurred?

ANSWER

1. A detailed report, compiled as a result of allegations that contaminated material had been released from the uranium mine at Nabarlek, has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly Sessional Committee on the Environment.
2. Queensland Mines failed to report that stormwater had run off a restricted area. The company has been reprimanded.

Jabiru By-laws

350 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the status of the proposed by-laws for Jabiru?

ANSWER

The Jabiru Town Development Authority has had legal advice on the full range of by-laws required to enable it to effectively manage and control the town. Many of these by-laws have now been drafted and considered in draft form by the authority. It is hoped to have the authority make a series of by-laws at its September meeting, following which action will be taken to have the by-laws notified in the Gazette.

The by-laws included in the first stage will be -

- Refuse (Jabiru) By-laws
  - Garbage collection services
  - Removal of refuse
  - Storage of disused motor vehicles and machinery
  - Management of rubbish dump
- Plant By-laws
  - Approved plants
  - Noxious plants
  - Application for approval of unlisted plants
  - Notice requiring removal of grass, weeds, etc.
- Roads and Public Places (Jabiru) By-laws
  - Encroachment on roads
  - Road laws and gardens
  - Opening up public streets, planting trees, etc.
  - Prevention of damage to footpaths
  - Public works affecting public streets
  - Numbering of houses and buildings
  - Impounding of vehicles
  - General provisions regarding use of public streets
  - Management of footpaths and pedestrian malls
  - Public reserves
  - Lake Jabiru
  - Traffic control and car parks
- Private Swimming (Jabiru) Pool By-laws
  - Registration
  - Fencing
- Jabiru Swimming Pool Complex By-laws
  - Admission, season tickets, hours, etc.
  - Control of premises
  - Offences
  - Carnivals and hire
  - Coaching

In conjunction with the Department of Law, the authority is now working on the following additional by-laws -

- Rating
- The sewerage undertaking
- The power undertaking
- Sale of foodstuffs
- Control and impounding of animals
- Jabiru Town Hall
- Hawkers and stall-holders
- Signs, hoardings and bill posting

- Pounds
- The water undertaking
- Fencing
- Advertising
- Petrol pumps
- Liquor
- Toxic chemical disposal
- Firearms and traps
- Lighting of fires
- Environmental protection
- Litter
- Archaeological sites
- Camping
- Verandahs and awnings

The full list of required town by-laws has not yet been finally established.

It should be noted that the Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has made a series of regulations under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. Many of these apply in the town, including -

- Offences relating to wildlife
- Landing of aircraft
- Use and possession of firearms, traps, nets, spear guns, etc.
- Taking of animals or plants into the park
- Transportation and supply of liquor
- Use of chemicals
- Scientific research
- Archaeological sites
- Entry permits in certain cases
- Control of animals and plants that are not wildlife
- Impounding of animals
- Approval of town plan by director

It is hoped to have the full list of town by-laws in operation within 3 months.

#### Feral Animals Report

351 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans has the Conservation Commission to implement the recommendations of the Feral Animals Report in respect of the control of feral buffalo?

ANSWER

The government has established a Feral Animals Committee, as recommended in the inquiry. The committee has been active during the past year, and in relation to buffalo has:

1. Held a public symposium to discuss buffalo management issues with the interested parties.
2. Undertaken an extensive aerial survey of buffalo numbers and distribution. This 6 month field exercise has been completed but the written report has yet to be finalised and published.
3. Established a technical working group with extensive terms of reference to produce recommendations on policies and programs to foster economically viable and environmentally sound buffalo management. The working party is expected to produce its report by February 1982.

Donkey Camp Project in Katherine

352 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why has no environmental impact study been undertaken in regard to the proposal to pump water from the Katherine River in the Donkey Camp area?
2. At what level will pumping from the Katherine River cease so that the farmers' water supply for irrigation purposes is protected?

ANSWER

1. The need for an environmental impact study was considered in the early stages of this project and a notice of intent was referred to the Commonwealth Department of Science and Environment in accordance with the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act. After examining the proposal that department did not consider an environment impact study to be necessary.
2. At the last meeting of the Katherine River Advisory Committee it was agreed that the drawdown limit at Donkey Camp will be initially set at 0.5 metres, and the position reviewed at that stage. Once pumping ceases from the Donkey Camp source then bore water will form the basis of the town water supply.

Staffing Levels in NT Schools

354 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What is the staff-student ratio for (a) town primary schools, (b) high schools, and (c) bush schools in the Northern Territory?
2. What is the current staff-student ratio at (a) Yuendumu, (b) Papunya, and (c) Warrabri schools, and (d) is the ratio based on (i) enrolments or (ii) attendance?
3. Has he and or his department been approached by parents of students at Yuendumu school over staffing levels at the school and, if so, what action has been taken?
4. Will he give an assurance that staffing of schools will at all times meet the real needs of the schools as perceived by the principals and school councils?

ANSWER

1. (a) Town primary schools -  
pre-school 35:1 based on  $\frac{1}{2}$  day programs for each child;  
primary 30:1.
- (b) Junior secondary 16:1; senior secondary 13:1.
- (c) Schools in predominantly Aboriginal communities -  
pre-schools 20:1 based on full-day programs for each child;  
primary 25:1; post-primary 16:1.

2. (a)	<u>Adjusted Attendance</u>	<u>Teachers Deployed</u>	<u>Current Staff- Student Ratio</u>
<u>YUENDUMU - July</u>			
Pre-school	19	1	19:1
Primary	143	8	16:1
Post-primary	45	3	15:1
<u>(b) PAPUNYA - August</u>			
Pre-school	31	1.5	20:1
Primary	56	3.5	16:1

Post-primary	12	1	12:1
Outstations	38	4	9:1

(c) WARRABRI

Pre-school	30	1.5	20:1
Primary	130	6.5	20:1
Post-primary	57	4	14:1

- (d) Staff-student ratio (formula entitlement) is based upon an adjusted attendance.

The following acceptable percentage attendances have been set to distinguish between types of schools in the Northern Territory.

Urban schools - 90%.

Schools in predominantly Aboriginal communities - 85%.

- (i) Where the attendance is greater than the acceptable percentage the formula entitlement is based on enrolments.
  - (ii) Where the attendance is less than 90% in urban schools a 10% loading is added to the attendance figure to give the student numbers for determining formula entitlement.
  - (iii) When the attendance is less than 85% in predominantly Aboriginal communities a 15% loading is added to the attendance figure to give the student numbers for determining formula entitlement.
3. The manual arts teacher at Yuendumu resigned on 22 May 1981 and the principal/staff agreed not to seek a replacement due to a low attendance in the post-primary section.

When another resignation was tendered on 3 July 1981 the Regional Superintendent was not prepared to approve a replacement again due to an over-entitlement situation at the school.

The Yuendumu Council contacted the Regional Superintendent regarding staffing at the school and referred to efforts encouraging attendance with emphasis on post-primary aged children.

The department responded within the week and agreed to the replacement of both teachers considering special circumstances pertaining to the school. A manual arts teacher was recruited from interstate and commenced on 13 August 1981. An emergency relief teacher was employed to cover the second resignation and commenced during the week of 20 July 1981. Every effort has been made to identify a replacement. The department has made 5 offers of employment and the latest was expected to commence on 7 September 1981, unfortunately all have rejected employment. The Alice Springs Regional Office and Staffing Unit are continuing efforts to employ a suitable replacement.

The Yuendumu pre-school parent group wrote to the Regional Superintendent on Monday 7 September 1981, requesting an additional teacher for the pre-school. A visit will be made to the school on 14-15 September 1981 by the Regional Superintendent and Early Childhood Adviser to meet with the parent group.

4. Schools in the Northern Territory are staffed according to approved formulae based upon pupil/teacher ratios unless particular circumstances in individual schools require special consideration and justify additional teacher resources.

Each case is examined on its merits and dependent upon the availability of both establishment cover and funds, every effort is made to respond to needs.

Bores on Outstations

355 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) How many bores will be drilled on outstations in the electorates of Stuart and Barkly, (b) where will the bores be drilled, and (c) which bores on the outstations are to be equipped?

ANSWER

(a) It is proposed to drill 15 outstation bores in the electorates of Stuart and Barkly.

(b) The bores will be drilled at:

Stuart Electorate: Top Rockhole, Kunitjari, Petermann Range, Willowra, Harts Range, Woodgreen, Derry Downs, Anningie, Coniston, Putari, Muntawarra, Todd River Downs.

Barkly Electorate: Rockhampton Downs, Brunette Downs, Alexandria Downs.

(c) Outstation bores programmed to be equipped are:

Stuart Electorate: Ti-Tree (Nturiya), Utopia Outstations, Tarra Warra, Top Rockhole.

Barkly Electorate: Epenarra (2 bores).

Stoning of Vehicles in Alice Springs

356 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) What are the results, if any, of police investigations into a stone-throwing incident during which cars were stoned while passing through the Gap, Alice Springs, on the night of 24 July 1981?

(b) Have police connected this incident with a previous incident during which rally cars were stoned while passing the MacDonnell Trucking Yards Aboriginal camp the previous weekend?

ANSWER

(a) Extensive inquiries into the incident have failed to locate or ascertain the identity of the offenders. A subsequent incident where one vehicle was stoned resulted in a number of part-Aboriginal youths, aged from 12-16 years, being prosecuted. They have denied involvement in the stone throwing incident on 24 July 1981. Inquiries are continuing and persons thought to be able to assist with the investigation are still being sought. They are currently absent from Alice Springs on business. (Aboriginal).

(b) Police have not been able to make any connection between this incident and a previous incident during which rally cars were stoned while passing the MacDonnell Trucking Yards. In fact there would appear to be no connection whatsoever.

NTDC Assistance to Aboriginal Organisations

358 Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

How many Aboriginal organisations (i) have applied to the Northern Territory Development Corporation for assistance, (ii) have been given assistance, and (iii) in what form and amount?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Development Corporation does not distinguish between races when processing loan applications. However at least 2 applications have been received from Aboriginal organisations.

Neither organisation received assistance, as both were referred to the Aboriginal Development Commission, which is able to offer loan conditions which cannot be matched by the NT Development Corporation.

There have been a number of discussions held with representatives from Aboriginal organisations regarding financial assistance available from the Development Corporation, but no applications have resulted.

Pre-apprenticeship Courses for Young Aborigines

359 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

- (a) Have pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aborigines, as announced by him in March this year, commenced and, if not, why not?
- (b) If not, when are courses at the Priest Street complex expected to commence?
- (c) What is (i) the current or expected enrolment in the automotive courses planned to commence in July, and (ii) what forms of recruitment to this course has the department undertaken, especially in rural communities?
- (d) When will courses in retail store training, carpentry, joinery and other courses be offered at the Priest Street Vocational Training Centre?

ANSWER

- (a) The pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aborigines at Priest Street annexe of the Community College of Central Australia have not yet commenced. The reason for the delay has been lengthy negotiations with the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs for funding for equipment and staffing.
- (b) The automotive course is now expected to commence in February 1982.
- (c) (i) The Community College of Central Australia has been advised by the Senior Vocational Officer, Aboriginal Training from the Commonwealth Employment Service office in Alice Springs that there will be up to 20 students for the automotive course.  
(ii) The recruitment of students for the course is carried out by the Senior Vocational Officer, Aboriginal Training from the Commonwealth Employment Service office in Alice Springs. The Community College of Central Australia is the agency responsible for conducting the course, not for the recruitment of the students. It is anticipated that the Senior Vocational Officer will consult with adult educators and principals in rural communities for recruitment of students in those communities.
- (d) At this stage it is anticipated that a carpentry and joinery course will start in July 1982 but this will depend on funding being available and on the identification of students by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs through its Commonwealth Employment Service office in Alice Springs.

Bores at Beetaloo Station

360 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What plans, if any, does the government have to equip bores at Beetaloo Station to supply water in quantity to the school and community?

ANSWER

The equipping of a bore at Beetaloo Station to provide a water supply to

the school and community is currently being funded by the Department of Community Development and the Department of Education against the 1981-82 capital works program. The work involves the equipping of a new bore, provision of water reticulation to the school and community and the provision of elevated and ground level tanks.

The equipment has been ordered and is expected on site mid-October. The anticipated completion date for the whole of the works is the end of November 1981.

Public Service Aboriginal Interpreter Service

361 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- (a) What response was obtained from a request published in the February 1981 edition of the Public Service newsletter 'Keeping in Touch' for information regarding Aboriginal languages spoken by public servants?
- (b) When will an interpreter service be established to provide assistance to Aboriginal people using public services?
- (c) In what centres will these services be provided?

ANSWER

- (a) There were notices placed in 'Keeping in Touch' asking that public servants with bilingual skills in Aboriginal languages indicate their interest in using these skills to interpret. This notice first appeared in the January issue and again in May 1981. There were 8 respondents to this notice.
- (b) The government has already established an interpreting service which uses bilingual NTPS employees who have volunteered to interpret. These people can be released from their normal work duties to provide interpreting assistance. An officer within the Department of Community Development receives requests for interpreting assistance and arranges for an interpreter to be available. There are over 100 volunteer interpreters within the NTPS covering most ethnic languages, but only a few Aboriginal languages. The government is presently considering in what ways language assistance can be extended to include more Aboriginal languages.

A NT government working party has provided a report on this matter, and a submission has been received from the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Alice Springs. These are now being considered.

- (c) It is intended that all centres in the Territory have access to language assistance either through on-call interpreters or, if not available, by a 3 way telephone link-up to other centres.

Mt Gillen Child Health Unit

362 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

- (a) When will renovations and remodelling work on the Mt Gillen Child Health Unit in Alice Springs be completed?
- (b) When did work commence?
- (c) Did the original contractor fail to satisfactorily fulfil the terms of the tender to the point where he abandoned work and, if so, what safeguards exist in the NT government tendering policy to preclude similar contract breakdowns on other jobs?
- (d) How will the unit's treatment and residential services - including accommodation for attendant mothers and family - be upgraded and ex-

panded as a result of the renovations?

- (e) Do children with severe brain damage currently live and receive care at the unit and, if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what treatment and care does each child require?
- (f) Is there an alternative residential facility for brain-damaged children in the Northern Territory and, if no, does his department plan to provide such a facility?
- (g) Is bed space at the unit intended for the use of sick and malnourished children and babies and, if so, why are beds currently being occupied by brain-damaged children?

ANSWER

- (a) The handover date was 20 November 1981.
- (b) Work commenced in July 1980.
- (c) No, the Department of Transport and Works cancelled the contract due to the poor performance by the contractor. As the Northern Territory government tendering policy on capital works is not within my portfolio, may I suggest to the honourable member he approach my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works for more information.
- (d) The unit in its original condition was run down, the plumbing and electrical services unreliable and many of the buildings difficult to keep clean. The upgrading program is intended to rectify all of these matters and make accommodation for both families and patients more tenable.
- (e) Yes, the number varies from 2 to 6. The treatment and care of each child varies depending on the extent of the handicap. In general these children require 24 hours a day nursing, most of them require spoon feeding, and many require frequent physiotherapy. They all need occupational therapy.
- (f) The only alternative residential facility in Alice Springs at present is the Alice Springs Hospital. The Department of Health does not intend to provide an alternative facility but is actively involved in the provision of suitable community based facilities by such people as the Spastic Council and the Anglican Church at its St Mary's Village.
- (g) The bed space at the Child Health Unit is intended for the rehabilitation of children and as such some brain-damaged children fulfil appropriate criteria. It is the severely handicapped children who are inappropriately placed at the Child Health Unit since neither the staff nor the physical facilities were intended to care for such patients.

Supply of Power by NTEC to Pastoral Properties

363 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

- (a) What is the policy regarding the supply of power by NTEC to pastoral properties?
- (b) What arrangements have been made between the lessees of Newcastle Waters Station and NTEC for the establishment and supply of power to that lease?
- (c) What was the cost of installing the power generation sets and the power reticulation?
- (d) How much did the station lessees contribute to the cost?

- (e) How many power consumers not directly concerned with the station's operations will use the NTEC power?
- (f) What arrangements for power generation existed at Newcastle Waters before NTEC power was supplied?
- (g) Can other pastoral lessees now assume that NTEC power will be supplied on request and to replace their own power supplies?
- (h) What are the names of other pastoral leases where NTEC power is supplied primarily or exclusively to the lessee?
- (i) How much will it cost to maintain the NTEC service at Newcastle Waters?
- (j) How much income will be generated from the service?

ANSWER

- (a) Pastoral properties may apply for connection to electricity supplies operated by the commission. Applications will be considered on their own merit in terms of the capital and operating costs of providing supply.
- (b) Newcastle Waters Station made application for connection to the supply at Newcastle Waters and power is sold to the station at commercial rates.
- (c) The capital cost of generating plant and the distribution system at Newcastle Waters was \$100,000.
- (d) Newcastle Waters Station paid \$9,000 to cover the cost of line construction from the boundary of the station to the point of supply.
- (e) There are 7 consumers at Newcastle Waters, including the school and the town water supply.
- (f) Prior to the installation of reticulated power by NTEC, consumers generated their own power. Separate generating plants were operated by the school, Telecom and Newcastle Waters Station. The town water supply was powered by a diesel pump.
- (g) There is no assumption that NTEC power will be supplied on request to pastoral lessees.
- (h) No other pastoral leases are supplied by NTEC.
- (i) Budget allocation for operating the Newcastle Waters Power Station and distribution system for 1981-82 is \$48,400; this includes \$24,800 for fuel.
- (j) The estimate of revenue for 1981-82 is \$9,000.

Principal and Deputy Principal Positions  
at Community College of Central Australia

365 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

- (a) Will he table copies of the advertisements published for the positions of Principal and Deputy Principal at the Community College of Central Australia?
- (b) When were the advertisements published and how many applications were received?
- (c) Have any changes been made in the establishment of the college which will have the effect of eliminating or altering either or both of the above positions?
- (d) If so, when were the changes made and why?

- (e) What are the names of the persons presently holding the positions of Principal and Deputy Principal?

ANSWER

- (a) The position of Principal of the Community College of Central Australia has been advertised twice this year. Both were national advertisements and copies are freely available from the Department of Education. The position of Deputy Principal was advertised once internally by the Commonwealth Teaching Service. A copy of this advertisement is similarly available.
- (b) The first advertisement for the position of Principal appeared in the national press on 4 July and 8 applications were received. As there were not sufficient applicants with the necessary qualifications the position was re-advertised on 5 September with a closing date of 30 September. The advertisement for the position of Deputy Principal appeared in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. G9 of 3 March 1981. Three applications were received.
- (c) A report on the staffing needs of the Community College of Central & Australia is currently being considered jointly by the Department of Education and the Public Service Commissioner. A submission seeking the re-classification of the Principal's position to bring it into line with Technical and Further Education institutions elsewhere instead of its present classification which is related to a College of Advanced Education structure is currently being considered. No other changes affecting these 2 positions have been finalised.
- (e) The substantive Principal is Mr E.J. Pearse who is currently on secondment to special duties within the Department of Education. The acting Principal is Mr H. Tinsley. The Deputy Principal position is not filled substantively. Ms M. Crawford is currently acting in the position.

Roadside Verges on Carpentaria Highway

366 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

- (a) How frequently are the roadside verges on the Carpentaria Highway mown and or graded?
- (b) Is he aware that in July 1981 the roadside verges were so overgrown that they gave excellent cover to cattle, thus creating a serious hazard to motorists?
- (c) Will he ensure that this highway and all other major roads in the Territory are regularly maintained to ensure conditions are safe for all travellers?

ANSWER

- (a) The verges of the Carpentaria Highway are slashed on a yearly basis, usually just after the wet season when it is most required. This year it was slashed in April to a width of approximately 3 metres from each side of the seal. Maintenance grading is undertaken when it is required, usually once a year.
- (b) Some regrowth is expected during the dry season but it is usually insufficient to warrant a further mowing patrol.
- (c) I will ask my maintenance section to keep an eye on the regrowth and to provide additional mowing if required.

Submissions on Australian Schools Commission-funded Programs

367 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

- (a) How many submissions on Australian Schools Commission-funded programs for severely handicapped children, as advertised in the Centralian Advocate of 15 July 1981, has his department received?
- (b) What are the details of the submissions which will receive funding under the scheme?

ANSWER

- (a) Five submissions were received.
- (b) To date, no approvals from the federal minister have been received, although 3 projects have been recommended for funding.

Magistrates in Alice Springs

368 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is it intended to have 2 magistrates in Alice Springs in the new year?

ANSWER

The question of allocation of duties of magistrates is one for the Chief Magistrate.

The Chief Magistrate advises that he intends to base 2 magistrates in Alice Springs as from the new year.

Non-Australians in NT Teaching Service

369 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Are any members of the Northern Territory Teaching Service not Australian citizens?
2. If the answer is yes, how many aliens are employed and to which nations do they owe allegiance?
3. What is the Northern Territory government's policy regarding the employment of non-Australians in the teaching service and the public service?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. No aliens have been employed by the NTTS since its inception. The Commonwealth Teaching Service employed aliens, with ministerial approval. The schedule below details the number of aliens employed by the CTS who were compulsorily transferred to the NTTS, and the nations to which they owe allegiance.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>
23	USA
2	Philippines
2	Netherlands
2	France
2	Germany
1	Belgium
1	Canada
<u>1</u>	Pakistan
34	TOTAL
—	

It should be noted that records have not been kept of the number of citizens of the UK or New Zealand employed by the service.

3. Section 14(3) of the Public Service Act states that the Public Service Commissioner shall take steps to ensure that there is no discrimination in the employment of any person on the grounds of, inter alia, that person's national or ethnic origin.

It is the policy of the NT government that the public service, and the teaching service, should be as efficient and effective as possible. Accordingly, if an alien with residency status is the most efficient applicant for a vacancy, employment will be offered to that alien.

Annual Report on the Operations of the Mental Health Act

- 370 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Section 31 of the Mental Health Act requires that an annual report on the operations of the Act be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Is it intended to provide a separate report, or is the section on the Act included in the Annual Report of the Department of Health, 1980-81 (pp 70-71) intended to be the only report tabled?

ANSWER

It is not intended to provide a separate report covering the operation of the Mental Health Act. A section dealing with this subject is included in the Annual Report of the Northern Territory Department of Health for 1980-81 and will be the only report tabled.

This complies with the requirements of section 41 of the Mental Health Act, which provides:

'41. ANNUAL REPORT

(1) The Minister shall table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the operation of this Act.'

Staff Reductions at Casuarina Hospital

- 371 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In his statement to the Assembly on 18 August 1981, he announced that staff numbers at Casuarina Hospital would be reduced by 70. In what categories of employees will these reductions take place?

ANSWER

The reduction of staff at Casuarina Hospital will affect 13 of the 15 staff categories at the hospital. There will be no retrenchment of present staff as the reduction can be achieved through natural wastage. Recruitment of staff for 1982 is still being carried out.

Industrial Relations Unit in Alice Springs

- 372 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Does he intend to establish an office of the Industrial Relations Unit in Alice Springs now or in the future and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

It must be noted that the Northern Territory government has no constitutional authority in respect of industrial relations. The main functions the government can perform in relation to industrial relations are simply to monitor and to advise.

As regards the specific question asked, the decision whether or not to open an office of the Industrial Relations Unit in Alice Springs must rely on the number of queries and complaints received from that centre and surrounding regions.

In the 9 months to September 1981, only 6 complaints were received from Alice Springs and 1 from Tennant Creek. A number of general queries were received, all of which were answered satisfactorily by telephone or by correspondence.

The Industrial Relations Unit conducts inspectorial visits to all Territory regional centres approximately 4 times per year and the latest visit to Alice Springs occurred in July of this year. A number of general queries were received but only 1 actionable complaint, this caseload from visiting a total of 439 business premises.

There does not seem to be a case therefore for establishing an office of the unit in Alice Springs at this time. Frequent contact is maintained with trade union and employer representatives and, in addition, an information meeting was held with the member for MacDonnell at his request on 21 July during which the functions and responsibilities of the unit were explained.

The position will of course be kept under review.

Treatment of Burns Cases at Casuarina Hospital

373 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it a fact that special facilities for the treatment of burns cases at the Casuarina Hospital have never been used and that burns cases are treated in ordinary wards where the risk of infection is very high?

ANSWER

There are no special facilities for the treatment of burns cases at the Casuarina Hospital.

On the 1981-82 Minor New Works Program a special 'Burns Bath' will be installed in Casuarina Hospital Ward 2B. Burns patients are nursed in protective isolation in single rooms in this surgical ward. They are currently bathed in bed or using a bath kept solely for burns patients.

With the installation of the special bath, bathing will be improved for burns patients.

Debtors in NT Gaols

374 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many debtors are currently imprisoned in NT gaols?
2. Is it expected that gaol accommodation in the Territory will be sufficient to cater for those people who are unable to pay their medical bills?

ANSWER

1. There are no debtors currently imprisoned in NT gaols.
2. An 1889 South Australian Act to abolish imprisonment for debt, except in certain circumstances, still applies in the Northern Territory.

Department of Health Staff Training

375 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Which categories of staff of the Department of Health will receive training in the 'new procedures to be adopted' as a consequence of the new health funding arrangements, and in which such procedures will department staff receive training?

ANSWER

Each region has conducted training session for medical, nursing and administrative staff with all cashiers/interviewing officers receiving additional finance training. A series of circulars was produced and sent to all staff members who are expected to make themselves familiar with the new charging procedures. The department has also produced and distributed a new charging manual to all hospitals and urban community health centres.

Road Accidents and Random Breath-Testing

378 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

1. For each of the months of (a) July 1980, (b) August 1980, (c) September 1980, (d) October 1980, (e) November 1980, (f) December 1980, (g) January 1981, (h) February 1981, (j) March 1981, (k) April 1981, (m) May 1981, and (n) June 1981, (i) how many road accidents occurred in the Northern Territory, (ii) how many road accidents were alcohol-related, and (iii) what was the incidence of death or injury sustained in alcohol-related road accidents?
2. For the period July 1980 to June 1981, what were the classifications of road accidents according to (a) location, and (b) time of occurrence?
3. For each of the months of (a) July 1980, (b) August 1980, (c) September 1980, (d) October 1980, (e) November 1980, (f) December 1980, (g) January 1981, (h) February 1981, (j) March 1981, (k) April 1981, (m) May 1981, and (n) June 1981, (i) how many drivers were tested at random breath testing stations in the Northern Territory, (ii) how many drivers tested at random breath testing stations registered alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, (iii) how many prosecutions were initiated as a consequence of drivers tested at random breath testing stations registering alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, (iv) how many drivers were tested for blood alcohol content other than at random breath testing stations, (v) how many drivers tested under (iv) above registered alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, and (vi) how many prosecutions were initiated as a result of drivers registering alcohol levels above the prescribed limit, but not tested at random breath testing stations?
4. How many police officers currently serving in the force have undergone specific training to operate random breath testing stations and other breath testing apparatus?
5. With respect to the operation of random breath testing stations (a) have key times of day and key locations been identified, (b) what is the frequency of surveillance in key locations at key times of day, and (c) are random breath testing stations always manned at full strength at key times of day in key locations?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

ANSWER

1.

MONTH	TOTAL ACCIDENTS	ALCOHOL RELATED	FATAL ACCIDENT ALCOHOL	INJURY ACCIDENT ALCOHOL
<u>1980</u>				
July	146	39	7	18
August	147	47	3	22
September	129	42	3	15
October	163	48	1	19
November	191	46	5	21
December	153	54	6	28
<u>1981</u>				
January	130	24	0	11
February	125	24	1	15
March	156	31	5	12
April	162	36	6	21
May	193	40	4	17
June	152	29	2	18
TOTAL	1,847	460	43	217

2.

LOCATION	0001 - 0200	0201 - 0400	0401 - 0600	0601 - 0800	0801 - 1000	1001 - 1200	1201 - 1400	1401 - 1600	1601 - 1800	1801 - 2000	2001 - 2200	2201 - 2400	UN- KNOWN TIME	TOTAL
X Inter- section	5	2	1	13	19	22	32	21	51	21	9	9	1	206
T Inter- section	18	3	3	35	34	27	39	51	89	64	36	22	2	423
Y Inter- section	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	13
Multiple Inter- section	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Straight road	50	33	10	41	58	66	67	103	106	75	88	55	15	767
Curve	17	7	3	9	13	12	26	24	42	27	23	27	7	237
Bridge or culvert	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	11
Divided carriage- way	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	2	3	0	2	1	16
Undivid- ed car- riageway	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	2	1	4	4	2	1	21
Median Opening	2	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	12
Level road	1	3	2	2	4	3	3	7	10	5	4	2	2	48

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Hills	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
View open	0	1	0	1	4	3	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	23
View obscured	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	8
Other locations	0	0	1	2	4	10	9	9	9	1	5	4	3	57
TOTAL	97	52	22	106	140	152	190	224	317	211	174	128	34	1,847

3.

MONTH	AT RANDOM BREATH TESTING STATIONS			OTHER THAN RANDOM BREATH TESTING STATIONS		
	3(i) DRIVERS TESTED	3(ii) ABOVE LIMIT	3(iii) PROSECUTIONS	3(iv) DRIVERS TESTED	3(v) ABOVE LIMIT	3(vi) PROSECUTIONS
<u>1980</u>						
July	1,036	13	12	109	88	87
August	871	19	19	136	118	111
September	465	4	4	117	101	101
October	1,200	13	13	133	108	99
November	1,321	27	24	136	116	113
December	1,238	23	20	183	150	150
<u>1981</u>						
January	1,378	23	20	135	109	106
February	1,074	27	21	129	100	98
March	173	1	1	116	100	100
April	4,332	45	39	134	90	81
May	921	27	24	140	111	110
June	783	16	14	162	130	128
TOTAL	14,792	238	211	1,630	1,321	1,284

4. All police officers who are required to operate random breath testing stations receive 'on the job' training; since the commencement of breathalyzer legislation in 1974 all recruits have been trained in the use of Alcotest preliminary breath test devices as have most members who were serving prior to that legislation's commencement; 75 police officers currently serving in the force have been specifically trained as breathalyzer operators; and 6 police officers currently serving in the force have been specifically trained as breathalyzer maintenance personnel.

5. (a) Yes.

(b) Normal maximum random breath testing frequency is -

Darwin	8 urban, 2 rural per fortnight;
Alice Springs	2 urban, 2 rural per fortnight;
Tennant Creek	1 urban, 1 rural per fortnight;
Katherine	1 urban, 1 rural per fortnight;
Nhulunbuy	1 urban, 1 rural per fortnight;
Jabiru	1 operation per month; and
Warrabri	1 operation per month.

(c) Yes.

Staff Levels at Alice Springs Psychiatric Unit

380 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the present staffing of Alice Springs psychiatric unit?

ANSWER

Staffing of the Alice Springs Psychiatric Unit is 1 specialist psychiatrist, 1 psychologist, 1 resident medical officer (shared with medical ward), 6 registered nurses, 1 nursing aide per 24 hour shift, 1 cleaner, 1 orderly - 8.00 am to 4 pm 7 days, 1 orderly - 4 pm to mid-night, 7 days per week.

Care for Chronic Psychiatric Patients

381 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does the agreement between South Australia and the Northern Territory to look after chronic psychiatric patients cease?
2. How many patients are expected to return and where will they go?

ANSWER

1. There is no time limit on the understanding between South Australia and the Northern Territory for the care of long term psychiatric patients.
2. Patients still requiring institutional care will not be returned to the Northern Territory until an appropriate institution is established. This is not likely to be a viable proposition in the near future.

Government Advertising for Health Fund Membership

382 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How much has been spent by the government on TV and press advertising to promote membership of a health fund?

ANSWER

The advertising campaign to promote membership of a health fund has cost approximately \$16,200. Final cost will not be known until all invoices have been received. Advertisements were run in all newspapers and on radio and television.

Eligibility for Disadvantaged Card

383 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many migrants are eligible for the disadvantaged card in the Northern Territory?
2. How many people in receipt of unemployment benefit and special benefit are eligible for the disadvantaged card in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The issue of disadvantaged cards is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

The Department of Health has no information on the matter.

NT Patients Funded through Commonwealth Schemes

384 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many patients in the Northern Territory are funded through both the Commonwealth's Nursing Home and Domiciliary Care Services and

Benefits?

2. How many are extensive care patients?

ANSWER

Ninety patients in the Northern Territory are currently funded through the Commonwealth Nursing Home Act.

A total of 47 are extensive care patients.

Domiciliary Care Benefits are paid through the Commonwealth Department of Health, and not the Northern Territory government.

Sealing of Roper Road

386 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the sealing of the Roper Road be completed to the 4-mile landing?

ANSWER

The road from the Stuart Highway to the crossing at Roper Bar is approximately 175 km long, of which 95 km have previously been sealed.

Upgrading of the remaining 81 km is to be undertaken in stages.

The next stage is presently programmed for commencement in the 1984-85 financial year.

Other stages will follow as finance and other priorities allow.

The access to the 4 Mile Landing from the Roper Highway was upgraded this year to a formed and gravelled standard at a cost of \$30,000.

This section can now be economically maintained along with the gravelled sections of the highway.

Accidents on Dick Ward Drive

387 Mrs O'NEIL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Since the opening of Dick Ward Drive on 22 July 1980, how many accidents have been reported to the police (a) at the intersection of Dick Ward Drive and Ross Smith Avenue, (b) at the intersection of Ross Smith Avenue and Phillip Street, (c) at the intersection of Ross Smith Avenue and Fannie Bay Place, (d) at the intersection of Ross Smith Avenue and East Point Road?

ANSWER

During the period 22 July 1980 to 15 September 1981 -

(a) 5 accidents reported to the police;

(b) 2 accidents reported to the police;

(c) 4 accidents reported to the police; and

(d) 7 accidents reported to the police.

Katherine Dam Site

388 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will he please detail the nature and number of consultations undertaken with the Djauan people and the NT government concerning the proposed site of the Katherine Dam?

2. How many sacred sites are located in the proposed Katherine Dam site?

3. What action does he intend taking regarding the proposed dam site,

given the opposition of the Djauan people?

ANSWER

1. None to date.
2. As yet unknown.
3. The matters raised will all be addressed in the full feasibility study and subsequent environmental impact study, if the project investigation continues beyond the current strategy studies.

Emergency Assistance Allocation

389 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 1980-81 how much was spent out of the emergency assistance allocation on accommodation in terms of (a) financial assistance for purchase of tents, (b) bond money, and (c) general rental assistance?

ANSWER

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of emergency assistance expenditure into the 3 categories mentioned, but an amount of \$58,871.82 was spent in 1980-81 on financial assistance for accommodation.

Department of Correctional Services Grants-in-Aid

390 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which organisations are receiving grants-in-aid from the Department of Correctional Services in 1981-82 and how much is being allocated? How many unsuccessful applications were there and what were these organisations?

ANSWER

There are 2 organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Correctional Services Division.

- Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory.
- Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc.

The Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory has been granted \$5,000 for 1981-82.

A grant for the Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc. for 1981-72 is currently being assessed.

There were no other applications for grants-in-aid for 1981-82.

Commonwealth Special Assistance for Aboriginal Health

395 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Commonwealth provides special assistance for Aboriginal health through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The Commonwealth states, under these programs, funds are provided for (a) prevention and control of alcohol abuse, (b) development of Aboriginals' responsibility in the improvement of their own health, and (c) development through training of Aboriginals to become expert in all aspects of health care administration. Will he ascertain how much is being provided for these purposes in the Northern Territory and to whom?

ANSWER

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs was unable to provide details of funding under the headings as provided. The following amounts have been programmed for the 1981-82 financial year.

(a) Prevention and control of alcohol abuse (including rehabilitation):

	<u>Recurrent</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
Kalano Association, Katherine	\$ 109,000	--	\$ 109,000
F.O.R.W.A.A.R.D., Darwin	\$ 103,000	--	\$ 103,000
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Medical & Health Services	\$ 114,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 119,000

(b) Aboriginal health services including training of Aboriginals in health care administration:

	<u>Recurrent</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
Kalano Association, Katherine	\$ 68,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 268,000
Aboriginal & Islander Medical Service, Darwin	\$ 50,000	--	\$ 50,000
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress & Health Service, Alice Springs	\$ 559,000	\$ 53,500	\$ 612,500
Lyappa Congress Medical Service, Papunya	\$ 367,000	--	\$ 367,000
Urapuntja Health Service, Utopia	\$ 250,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 285,000

Bilingual Programs in NT

399 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How much is being allocated in 1981-82 for bilingual programs? What was expended in 1980-81?
2. How many schools now have operational bilingual programs?
3. How many schools have been accredited as working successfully by the department?
4. At what stage is the evaluation of bilingual programs by the Department of Education? What are the recommendations, if any, to date?

ANSWER

1. Allocation for 1981-82 (excluding salaries): \$ 122,000.  
Expenditure for 1980-81 (excluding salaries): \$ 95,936.  
Allocation and expenditure relates to the curriculum, literacy workers and production programs.
2. Fifteen schools have operational bilingual programs but 3 of those programs are experiencing problems associated with developing an orthography, low attendance and unavailability of suitable staff.
3. One school has been recommended for 2 years provisional accreditation.
4. The bilingual program in 4 schools is currently under evaluation, with reports expected to be ready for presentation to the accreditation panel in early 1982. The program in 5 other schools will be evaluated during 1982, aiming at accreditation procedures in early 1983. The remaining schools are at varying stages of implementation of a bilingual program and will not be ready for evaluation until 1983-87, as the effectiveness of the program can only realistically be evaluated at the end of the primary education process.

University Planning Authority Expenditure

400 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What was expended in 1980-81 on travel and other expenditure related to

advisory meetings of the University Planning Authority? What is the anticipated expenditure in 1981-82?

ANSWER

	<u>1980-81 Expenditure</u>	<u>1981-82 Estimated Expenditure</u>
Official travel	\$ 11,478	\$ 20,000
Advisory meetings	\$ 35,962	\$ 74,000
	<u>\$ 47,440</u>	<u>\$ 94,000</u>

The increase in 1981-82 expenditure over 1980-81 expenditures represents a full year's expenditure on programs which commenced during 1980-81 and does not result from expansion of existing programs and or the introduction of new programs.

Core Curriculum and NT Certification Committees

401 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the estimated cost of implementing core curriculum and NT certification and associated curriculum committees for 1981-82?

ANSWER

The cost of implementing core curriculum in 1981-82 is estimated to be \$ 449,000.

A sizeable proportion of this amount is for short-term developmental costs and this amount should not be viewed simply as the annual cost of implementing core curriculum.

Since teaching and learning in the classroom is the main purpose of schooling and core and recommended curriculum accounts for approximately 80% of classroom time then the cost of implementing core curriculum should, after the initial development work is finalised, be no more than the cost of delivering any other comparable educational program. Therefore, the developmental costs are expected to progressively reduce to an ongoing maintenance level within 3 years.

Child Migrant Program

402 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What expansion of the existing child migrant program is expected in 1981-82?

ANSWER

Adequate financial provision has been made in the budget to provide teachers at a ratio of 10:1 in the intensive program and 30:1 in the on-going program. Expansion will depend on the numbers of new arrivals which is impossible to predict. Provision has been made on the basis of upper limits according to all available information.

Four additional positions have been made available for the on-going program and 4 for the intensive program initially.

Airfares for Isolated Children

403 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many families received airfares for isolated children in 1980-81? How many are expected to be covered in 1981-82?

ANSWER

Two hundred and nineteen families received airfares for isolated children in 1980-81. The number of families receiving assistance is expected to increase to 230 in 1982.

NT School Enrolments

405 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What has been the growth of student enrolments over 1980-81? At which schools? What is the projected student enrolment for 1981-82 and where?

ANSWER

There has been a 3.45% overall increase in student enrolments in the Northern Territory between July 1980 and July 1981, viz:

3.72% increase (940 students) in government schools;  
1.86% increase ( 79 students) in non-government schools;  
5.06% increase (977 students) in urban government schools; and  
0.62% decrease ( 37 students) in Aboriginal government schools.

The projected student enrolments for July 1982 are:

26,590 (2% increase) in government schools;  
4,460 (3% increase) in non-government schools;  
20,580 (2% increase) in urban government schools; and  
6,010 (1% increase) in Aboriginal government schools.

It is predicted that there will be an overall 1.6% increase (500 students) in student enrolments between July 1981 and July 1982.

Specific Purpose Payments under TAFE

406 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Which institutions are to receive specific purpose payments of grants under TAFE in 1981-82? How much are the specific purpose payments to be and for what purpose?

ANSWER

The institutions involved, and the amounts, are as follows:

	1981 September- December quarters	1982 March-June quarters	Total
Darwin Community College	\$33,500	\$121,050	\$154,550
Community College of Central Australia	\$13,600	\$ 10,920	\$ 24,520
Katherine Rural Education Centre	---	\$ 38,400	\$ 38,400
Batchelor College	---	\$ 24,760	\$ 24,760
Department of Education Programs	<u>\$19,950</u>	<u>\$ 45,500</u>	<u>\$ 65,450</u>
	<u>\$67,050</u>	<u>\$240,630</u>	<u>\$307,680</u>

The purposes for which the grants are, or are likely to be, approved are:

	1981 September- December quarters	1982 March-June quarters	Total
Staff development	\$16,800	\$ 28,250	\$ 45,050
Data collection and processing	\$ 8,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 23,000

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Particular purposes	\$42,250	\$97,380	\$139,630
Equipment (new grant in 1982)	---	\$100,000	\$100,000
	\$67,050	\$240,630	\$307,680

Specific Purpose Payments to Schools

407 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Which schools received specific purpose payments in 1980-81 under disadvantaged country areas? How much was allocated? In 1981-82 what is the anticipated expenditure per school?

ANSWER

In 1980-81 grants of a total amount of \$151,648 were approved under the Disadvantaged Country Areas Program as follows:

The Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust 'Arts in Isolated Schools and Communities' program	\$ 32,000
Kargaru Primary School	\$ 7,000
Bush Schools in the Disadvantaged Country Areas - colour video cassette recorder/playback systems	\$ 58,778
Tennant Creek Area School	\$ 6,000
Alice Springs School of the Air	\$ 43,870
Katherine School of the Air	\$ 4,000

The 1981-82 Commonwealth budget provides \$181,000 for the program in the Northern Territory. Legislation concerning the 1982 grants is currently before the Federal Parliament awaiting approval. Grants are normally provided on a calendar year basis and at this particular time further grants have been approved for the remainder of 1981 as follows:

Alice Springs School of the Air	\$ 12,750
Katherine School of the Air	\$ 16,500
	\$ 29,250

Specific Purpose Payments to School

408 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In 1980-81 which schools received specific purpose payments of grants under the Disadvantaged Government Schools program and how much was each allocated? In 1981-82 what is the anticipated expenditure per school?

ANSWER

In 1980-81 grants of a total amount of \$235,116 were approved under the Disadvantaged Government Schools program as follows:

(a) Alice Springs High School	\$ 75,753
(b) Millner Primary School	\$ 81,154*
(c) Nightcliff High School	\$ 25,119*
(d) Rapid Creek Primary School	\$ 53,090*

\* Includes salary component extending over the whole of 1981 calendar year.

The 1981-82 Commonwealth budget provides \$296,935 for the program in the Northern Territory. Legislation concerning the 1982 grants is currently before the Federal Parliament awaiting approval. Grants are normally provided for a calendar year and at this particular time further grants have been approved for the remainder of 1981 as follows:

(a) Batchelor Education Village	\$ 9,500
(b) Berrimah Primary School	\$ 10,000

(c) Rapid Creek Primary School	\$ 27,500
(d) Tennant Creek Area School	\$ 2,460
(e) Traeger Park Primary School	\$ 15,273
(f) Warrego Primary School	\$ 11,720
Total	\$ 76,453

Secondary Student Assistance Scheme

409 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in years 8 to 10 are receiving assistance from the Secondary Student Assistance Scheme? How many are in receipt of the maximum rate?

ANSWER

Seventy students are currently receiving assistance from the Secondary Assistance Scheme. Twenty-nine are in receipt of the maximum allowance.

Dollar-for-dollar Subsidies

410 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Which schools received funding from the dollar-for-dollar subsidies in 1980-81 and how much was allocated per school?

ANSWER

The following are the schools which received 'dollar-for-dollar' subsidies in 1980-81 and the amounts allocated. The 'dollar-for-dollar' scheme operates on the basis that any school which raises funds for a specifically stated purpose will receive a grant equal to the amount raised but not exceeding \$5,000. Any amount to be granted in excess of \$5,000 will require justification by the school concerned and will depend upon availability of funds and approval of the secretary of the department.

NORTHERN REGION

Adelaide River	\$ 2,000.00	Jabiru Primary	\$ 6,749.00
Alawa Primary	1,000.00	Jabiru Pre School	2,000.00
Amanbidgi	489.00	Jingili Primary	10,421.59
Anugurugu	3,274.00	Jingili Pre School	300.00
Anula Primary	14,377.00	Kalkaringi	1,300.00
Anula Pre School	1,798.00	Katherine High	12,955.00
Batchelor Primary	5,000.00	Katherine School of Air	800.00
Batchelor Pre School	5,000.00	Katherine South	6,500.00
Bamyili	5,000.00	Katherine South Pre	400.00
Belyuen	1,612.50	Katherine Transitional	200.00
Berrimah Primary	4,320.00	Pre School	
Berrimah Pre School	704.00	Killarney	520.00
Berry Springs	5,000.00	Lajamanu	5,000.00
Borrooloola	5,000.00	Larrakeyah Primary	3,321.00
Beswick	800.00	Ludmilla Developmental	476.00
Bulman	100.00	Ludmilla Primary	14,466.00
Casuarina High	6,571.00	Malak Primary	9,150.00
Clyde Fenton Primary	2,027.00	Malak Pre School	3,450.00
Coconut Grove	5,000.00	Marrara Christian	5,261.00
Clyde Fenton Pre	427.00	Mamaruni	250.00
Darwin High	7,250.00	Mataranka	335.00
Darwin Primary	5,000.00	Middle Point School	2,500.00
Darwin Pre School	598.50	Maningrida	4,712.00
Dripstone High	7,750.00	Milingimbi	1,696.00
Djimbra	3,054.00	Milikapati	4,000.00

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Ganjarani	550.00	Milikapati Pre	500.00
Goulburn Island	3,060.00	Millner Primary	1,455.00
Hodgson Downs	1,000.00	Millner Pre	929.00
Howard Springs Primary	4,231.00	Moil	10,085.00
Howard Springs Pre	772.29	Mudginberri	2,320.00
Holy Spirit	10,988.00	Moil Pre	500.00
Humpty Doo Primary	5,000.00	Mountain Valley	100.00
Humpty Doo Pre School	1,500.00	Nakara Primary	9,681.00
Ngukurr	\$ 1,057.00	St John's College	\$10,000.00
Nightcliff Primary	4,043.88	St Mary's	9,954.00
Nightcliff Pre	350.00	St Paul's	7,845.00
Nightcliff High	3,554.00	St Therese's	5,650.00
Nhulunbuy High	5,000.00	Shepherdson College	1,730.00
Nhulunbuy Primary	7,460.00	Stuart Park Primary	5,000.00
Nhulunbuy Pre	2,801.73	Tiwi Primary	10,500.00
Numbulwar	4,787.00	Victoria River Downs	1,547.84
Parap Pre	2,170.00	Tiwi Pre School	400.00
Parap Primary	5,726.54	Wagaman Primary	3,797.00
Peppimenarti	500.00	Wagaman Pre School	837.00
Point Stuart	1,000.00	Wanguri Primary	11,300.00
Pigeon Hole	1,100.00	Wanguri Pre School	1,342.00
Pine Creek	4,900.00	Wulagi Primary	5,000.00
Pularumpi	2,500.00	Wulagi Pre School	500.00
Ramingining	3,929.97	Wooliana	1,500.00
Rapid Creek Primary	5,556.00	Xavier Boys	4,955.30
Rapid Creek Pre	943.00	Yarralin School	1,350.00
Seventh Day Adventist	5,000.00		

SOUTHERN REGION

Alice Springs High	\$ 140.00	Rona Glynn	\$ 510.00
Amoonguna	225.00	Ross Park	3,051.50
Braitling	4,017.99	Sadadeen	7,285.00
Charles Creek Pre	40.00	Santa Teresa	1,938.00
Bradshaw	19,219.00	School of the Air	6,803.65
Gillen Primary	7,000.00	Special School	2,127.00
Gillen Pre	500.00	Tennant Creek Area	6,720.00
Ida Stanley	1,174.00	Tennant Creek Pre School	1,828.00
Karguru	5,000.00	Traeger Park School	900.00
Karguru Pre	900.00	Utopia	1,105.00
Natalie Gorey	360.00	Warrabri	6,728.50
OLSH	4,712.90	Yuendumu	1,406.69
Papunya	1,000.00	Yirara	5,217.11
Rockhampton Downs	1,400.00		

Scholarships and Reimbursements to Students

411 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students received scholarships and reimbursements under approved Student Assistance Schemes in 1980-81? What are the estimated additional claims for 1981-82?

ANSWER

Scheme	No. of Claimants	Estimated Additional Claims
	1980-81	1981-82
NT scholarships	8	10
NT tertiary grants	224	160
NT tertiary fares	194	210

Operational Expenses for Education Programs

412 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the operational expenses for the following programs in 1981-82: (a) Aboriginal teacher education, (b) adult education, (c) student driver education, (d) Katherine Rural Education Centre, (e) technical and vocational education, (f) Community Services and Correctional Welfare? What was expended in these areas in 1980-81?

ANSWER

The following amounts represent operational expenditure in relation to the listed function 1980-81 and 1981-82:

	<u>Expenditure</u> <u>1980-81</u>	<u>Estimate</u> <u>1981-82</u>
Aboriginal teacher education	\$ 150,963	\$ 237,000
Adult education	83,256	102,000
Student driver education	7,999	18,000
Katherine Rural Education Centre	29,178	121,000
Technical and vocational education	17,476	22,000
Community Services and Correctional Welfare	7,995	15,000
	<u>\$ 296,867</u>	<u>\$ 515,000</u>

NB: Figures do not include salaries.

Child Migrant Education

413 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he provide details on the new 'initiative' announced in the Budget that the government has undertaken in the area of child migrant education? How many children are to be involved? What is the ratio of students per teacher?

ANSWER

The government has accepted responsibility for the funding of the program. Allocations from the Commonwealth under the Child Migrant Education Program, now called English as a Second Language Program and the Refugee Contingency Program now called New Arrivals Program, are regarded as subsidies of NT government expenditure.

Up to 300 non-English speaking children are expected to arrive in this financial year. In addition approximately 600 children currently in the program will continue to be catered for.

Pupil teacher ratios approved by Cabinet are:

10:1 in the intensive component; and  
30:1 in the on-going component.

i.e.: The aim is to supply 1 teacher over establishment for each 30 children identified in schools as in need of specialised assistance.

Pre-apprenticeship Training Programs for Aboriginals

416 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

On what aspects of the establishment of pre-apprenticeship training programs for Aboriginals at the Community College of Central Australia will the \$10,000 allocated be spent in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The \$10,000 was included in the budget of the Community College of Central Australia to supplement funding provided by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs to run the pre-employment course in automotive engineering for Aboriginal students. It will be used to purchase equipment supplementary to that provided through this Commonwealth funding.

Specific Purpose Payments for Multi-cultural Education Programs

417 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In 1980-81 which schools received specific purpose payments for multi-cultural education programs? How much was allocated for each particular program and what was the nature of each program? What is the anticipated expenditure per school in 1981-82?

ANSWER

Allocation of moneys is administered by the Multicultural Education Coordinating Committee. Individual schools make applications for grants - therefore there is no expenditure per school as such.

\$43,000 is available for distribution in the 1982 school year.

The following grants have been made to date:

NTMECC

GRANTS APPROVED

<u>Date</u>	<u>Applications for Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
17. 7.81	Darwin Primary School - Language materials	\$ 2,000.00
	Moil Primary School - Language materials	\$ 1,500.00
	Alawa Primary School - Language materials	\$ 1,750.00
	Dripstone High School - Library materials	\$ 2,000.00
	Holy Spirit School - Resource materials	\$ 1,400.00
	Jingili Primary School - Language materials	\$ 901.00
	St Mary's School - Resource materials	\$ 1,000.00
	Oenpelli Literature Production Centre - Oral history recording	\$ 1,500.00
	Casuarina High School - Library Materials	\$ 800.00
	Secondary Intensive English Unit - History of ethnic groups	\$ 1,000.00
	Nightcliff Primary School - Photographic prints	\$ 200.00
	Bradshaw Primary School - Payment for film	\$ 60.00
	Sub-Total (1)	\$14,111.60
10. 2.81	Darwin High School - Language materials	\$ 1,650.00
	St John's School - Language materials	\$ 1,600.00
	Casuarina High School - Social and cultural resources	\$ 1,270.00
	Nightcliff Primary School - Resource materials	\$ 1,450.00
	Berry Springs Primary School - Language teaching and resource materials	\$ 2,000.00
	Willowra School - Oral history and literature - Resource development	\$ 2,000.00
	Papunya School - Oral history and literature - Resource development	\$ 2,000.00
	Casuarina High School - Language materials	\$ 1,430.00
	Sub-Total (2)	\$13,400.00

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

16.10.80	St Therese's School - Natural science research	\$ 850.00
17.10.80	St John's College - Language materials	\$ 600.48
	Dripstone High School - Library grant	\$ 1,000.00
	Casuarina High School - Resources to support inter- preter/translator course	\$ 5,008.00
	Yuendumu - Development of resource materials	\$ 850.00
	Hodgson Downs - Resource materials	\$ 600.00
	Katherine High School - Camping project re Aboriginal culture	\$ 1,350.00
	Bradshaw Primary School - Language materials	\$ 1,400.00
	Sub-Total (3)	\$16,658.48
	Sub-Total (1)	\$ 14,111.00
	Sub-Total (2)	\$ 13,400.00
	Sub-Total (3)	\$ 16,658.48
		\$ 44,169.48

Government Printing Office Apprenticeship Scheme

419 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many of the apprentices in the Government Printing Office apprenticeship scheme are female?

ANSWER

There are 9 apprentices currently employed at the Government Printing Office, all of which are male. However, during the recent Careers Week promotion, several female students expressed keen interest in possible job opportunities within the printing trade, in particular, the area of computerised typesetting.

Concessions to Pensioners

420 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of his statement that only just over one-fifth of those pensioners eligible for concessions have used these, what action has he taken to justify the estimate that 3,000 pensioners will use those concessions in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The figure quoted in my Community Development budget papers was prepared some time ago and needs updating. As at 30 September 1981 approximately 3,300 people have utilised the concessions this year alone, and this number is gradually increasing.

No action was therefore required by me to justify the estimate that 3,000 pensioners would use the concessions in 1981-82.

Commonwealth Curriculum Centre

422 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What provision is he making to ensure that the functions of the Commonwealth Curriculum Centre will be continued by the NT government in terms of curriculum development and teaching materials?

ANSWER

It is neither possible nor reasonable to expect the NT government to cover

adequately all the curriculum development and materials projects that were previously funded by the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC).

Projects which are continuing are:

1. Mathematics in Aboriginal Schools - the booklets in this series will now be produced in the NT and will be available for reproduction by state departments. Books 1 and 2 should be printed by January 1982.
2. Language Development Project - materials developed in this project will be printed by the NT Department of Education towards the end of 1982.
3. Learning Through the Historical Environment - this is funded by CDC until the end of 1982.
4. Oral English Tapes for Aboriginal Schools - this is funded by CDC until early 1982 and the NT Department of Education will produce and distribute those tapes developed by then.

Projects which cannot be continued because of cost are:

1. New Zealand Science Units - CDC was reprinting these in an adapted form for all Australian primary schools.
2. Leaps and Bounds - a project to assist the teaching of English in Aboriginal schools.
3. AMEP - the Australian Mathematics Education Project - a project aimed at improving mathematics education throughout Australia (still some possibility of continued CDC funding).

Commonwealth Schools Commission

423 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How will the Northern Territory be affected by the reduction of the Commonwealth Schools Commission's direct involvement in program administration and information collection?

ANSWER

As the Schools Commission has not as yet made a clear statement of its policies in this regard, government is at present uncertain about the precise ramifications for the NT.

Aboriginal Camping Areas within Municipal Boundaries

424 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it the intention of the government to make the regulation of camping areas within municipal boundaries the responsibility of the relevant municipal authority?
2. If so, will the government retain power to take positive action to better the conditions of Aborigines in those circumstances where an impasse is reached between the municipal authority and organisations representing Aboriginal interests?

ANSWER

I suggest this question be referred to the Minister for Community Development.

Collection of Data on Domestic Violence

425 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has the government established any adequate system of data collection on domestic violence through the hospital, courts or police? If not, when does the government intend to do so? If so, could he provide details?

ANSWER

Statistics kept by police relate to offences known to have been committed, but do not record the background circumstances.

Any statistics gathered would be unlikely to reflect the true incidence of domestic violence due to the reluctance of some medical personnel and victims to identify and report such violence in a domestic environment.

A Child Protection Consultative Committee comprising the Departments of Health, Community Development, Education, Law and Police is being set up in an effort to achieve greater effectiveness in this area.

Public Service Interpreters

426 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many requests for interpreters are there per week?
2. Could he provide details of the number of requests each government department has made in the last 6 months? How do these figures compare with the previous 6 months period?
3. What has been the cost of contract interpreters, if any, for each department?
4. How often has each NTPS voluntary interpreter been used on average in the last 6 months?
5. Which are the language groups most in demand?
6. How often in the last 6 months have there been requests from the hospitals for interpreters?
7. How does the use of interpreters in Alice Springs compare with Darwin?

ANSWER

1. From 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981 there were 122 interpreter requests and 124 translations, or almost 5 requests per week.
2. Almost all government departments and authorities have used the interpreter service. The main users during 1980-81 include:

<u>Department/Authority</u>	<u>1.7.80 to 31.12.80</u>	<u>1.1.81 to 30.6.81</u>
Law/Courts	9	6
Health	21	8
Education	-	16
Emergency Services	54	17
Police/Gaol	5	9
Information	1	5
Customs	3	6
Community Development	13	19
Tourist Bureau	1	4
Consumer Affairs	7	3
Ombudsman	8	7

For the time period 1 July 1980 to 31 December 1980 there were 127 interpreter/translator requests and for 1 January 1981 to 30 June 1981 there were 119 users.

3. There is no cost for NTPS interpreters, however the user pays principle applies if an interpreter/translator is required from outside the public service.
4. On average each interpreter has been used 2-4 times during a 6 month period.

5. The language groups most frequently in demand are Greek, Chinese (Mandarin, Hakka, Hokkien, Cantonese), Yugoslav, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and German.
6. The hospitals have requested interpreting assistance on 5 occasions during the past 6 months.
7. Requests for interpreters in other centres including Alice Springs are handled on a telephone link-up or referred to the Resource and Settlement Centres located in each of the population centres in the Territory. The requests for interpreting/translating in Alice Springs are about 1/10th those of Darwin.

Pensioner Concessions to Interstate Pensioners

427 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government raised the matter of extending pensioner concessions to interstate pensioners visiting the Northern Territory? If so, what was the outcome?

ANSWER

Because of the short length of time most interstate pensioners would spend in the Northern Territory and the fact that the majority of concessions are of domestic type, the only concession that would apply would be bus travel.

The introduction of the Northern Territory Pension Concession Card was for the purpose of accurate identification of eligible persons and ease of entry for such persons to the full range of concessions available.

The administrative efficiency of this scheme would be prejudiced if other forms of identification are to be used for one of these benefits, namely the bus travel concession.

Ways of alleviating this problem are being considered. Implementation of the extension of the bus travel concession to interstate pensioners cannot take place until the problem of effective identification of eligible interstate pensioners has been overcome.

Department of Education Administrative Expenses

455 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How was the allocation of \$6,950,869 in administrative expenses of General Expenses in the Education Department expended in 1980-81?

ANSWER

Advertising	\$	40,258
Communications	\$	478,084
Consultants	\$	34,489
General Services	\$	61,001
General Equipment/Machines	\$	129,790
Stores Stock	\$	207,434
Legal Expenses		---
Library Services	\$	185
Office Requisitions and Stationery	\$	115,018
Printing and Publications	\$	87,634
Regulatory and Advisory Services	\$	47,930
Recruitment Costs	\$	432,725
Relocation Expenses	\$	196,200
Study	\$	68,176
Freight	\$	345,467
Transport	\$	423,157

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Travel and Subsistence	\$ 9,651
Workers Compensation	\$ 54,716
Payroll Tax	\$ 2,388,579
Incidentals and Other	\$ 90,609
Recreation Leave Fares	\$ 872,329
Furniture	\$ 620,650
National and International	\$ 6,708
Remote Local. Fares	\$ 32,713
Inservice	\$ 181,493
Medical Fares	\$ 3,850
Assess Fares	\$ 10,512
ACER Survey	\$ 4,506
RTM Emergency Advances	\$ 7,000
TOTAL	\$ 6,950,864

The difference of \$5 is caused by rounding of figures.

Department of Education Administrative Expenses

456 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How is the extra \$290,216 for administrative expenses in Management Services of the Education Department to be spent in 1981-82?
2. How is the additional \$367,150 for administrative expenses in educational facilities to be spent in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The information pertaining to both questions is a matter of public record associated with budget paper No. 4 1981-82. Please refer to pages 8 and 9 of the Department of Education Explanatory Notes.

Housing Commission Rental Rebates

460 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the general formula used for deciding eligibility for a rental rebate?

ANSWER

To be eligible for rental rebate you must be the legal tenant, personally occupy the dwelling, be paying rent, and satisfy a means test.

This means test is calculated on gross family income which includes the tenant, the tenant's spouse, and any other person over 16 years of age who resides with the applicant.

Gross income does not include educational allowances paid in respect of school studies, family allowances, maternity allowances, domiciliary nursing care benefits or allowances from Legacy.

Public Trustee Functions

461 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In what way is the public being informed about facilities established for community benefit under (a) Public Trustee functions, and (b) standard will forms?

ANSWER

Copies of the pamphlet outlining the function of the Public Trustee are available at all Court offices within the Northern Territory. There is

to date no direct active advertising by means of newspapers, television or radio. However the Attorney-General has recently, at the request of the Public Trustee, indicated that modest advertising of the will-making service may be undertaken.

I am told by the Public Trustee that such advertising will consist of occasional advertisements in local press.

Generally people are aware of the service provided by the Public Trustee by word of mouth.

#### Tracker Dogs

462 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Would tracker dogs have been of assistance in the search for Warun on Howard Island?

#### ANSWER

In some circumstances tracker dogs can offer valuable assistance to searches for missing persons in bush areas. Ideally, the dogs should be at the scene within 2 hours to give them a chance to pick up a scent. In the Howard Island search the police were not able to arrive at the scene until 24 hours after Warrun was found to be missing. A number of Aborigines in this period had been looking for the child in the search area and it was no longer sterile. Due to these circumstances the use of tracker dogs would have had limited value.

#### Grants for Handicapped Children

465 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

\$44,000 is to be allocated as a specific purpose grant to integrate handicapped children into regular schools and to provide educational opportunities and support for severely handicapped children living at home or in institutions -

- (a) to whom are the specific purpose grants to be allocated; and
- (b) how many handicapped children in each of the categories mentioned will receive assistance and in what way is the support to be provided?

#### ANSWER

All Schools Commissions moneys including specific purpose grants are allocated on a calendar year basis which means that such moneys cut across 2 departmental budget periods which are based on a financial year.

The \$44,000 quoted includes a known factor of \$31,500 for 1981 while the balance represents a guesstimate of expected expenditure on both programs for the first half of 1982. (Amounts for 1981 are subject to quarterly indexation, and the figures quoted are the last known allocations).

Programs for 1982 cannot be approved until such time as the Federal Parliament passes the Appropriation Bills.

Moneys allocated to date are:

##### (i) Integration of Handicapped Children Program

\$10,500 - Construction of and equipment for a Visually Impaired Unit at Tiwi Primary School. (Catering for 6 children).

##### (ii) Severely Handicapped Program

\$ 4,000 - Playground equipment for NT Spastic Centre. (Catering for 20 children).

\$17,000 - Employment of 1 therapist and 2 aides on a part-time basis to assist run an educational program in hospital wards in Darwin for children living there on a long-term basis.

Camping Areas within Municipalities

467 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is it the intention of the government to make the regulation of camping areas within municipal boundaries the responsibility of the relevant municipal authority?
2. If so, will the government retain power to take positive action to better the conditions of Aborigines in those circumstances where an impasse is reached between the municipal authority and organisations representing Aboriginal interests?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government has already decided that the responsibility for the regulation of camping areas within municipal boundaries rests with the relevant municipal authority.
2. The question asked is vague, the government as well as organisations like the Aboriginal Development Commission have the power to fund improvements on leases granted to Aboriginal organisations for camping purposes.

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