

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services:

Annual Report – NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services

1. What is the justification for employing two (2) Deputy Commissioners for the Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) within this reporting period, without, it appears, removing a previously existing position at the Executive level?
2. Similar to the above, what is the justification for the additional Assistant Commissioner (increase from four to five positions, *page 80 refers*)
3. What is the estimated cost of the replacement program for the 18-year old NTPF case management system, PROMIS, and the expected timelines for roll out and eventual delivery?
4. How will the 'centralised human resource management centre for the agency' (to be implemented, *page 6 refers*) effect front line resources operationally?
5. Is there an intention in this approaching reporting period to open Nightcliff police station as a 24/7 station with front counter facilities for Territorians to access police services? (*Refer page 3, Nightcliff not listed as police station*)
6. Does the Territory government have a contingent funding model in place to continue to operate currently federally funded police stations (in remote locations) and operational units, as Commonwealth funding ceases for certain projects?
7. Is the Wadeye police station complex complete or still on track for completion in late 2017, as per report? (*Page 34 refers*)
8. How were the additional community resilience education and awareness programs delivered? 1603 reported 2016-17, 1350 in 2015-16 (*page 52 refers*)
9. When will the next EBA commence for the Firefighters, and what is the expectation in interested conditions and allowances?
10. What is the current situation for the Police Force Consent Agreement? When is that anticipated to be completed?

11. Will the Territory government assist former and current serving firefighters who may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals, including with welfare and mental health support and/or testing?
 12. Is Northern Territory Emergency Services (NTES) concerned by the decline in volunteers and is there a recruit program currently active to bring new volunteers on, and/or attract previous volunteers back?
 13. Is there a reason there was 18 internal audits conducted in this reporting period, as opposed to the 11 reported in 2015-16 annual report?
 14. Why is what was previously known as Professional Standards Command (PSC) reported as 'Police Standards Command' in this document (*refer page 73*)
 15. Which external consultancy firm conducted the HRM branch review, what were the recommendations and how far along is the recommendations roll out? (*page 79 refers*)
 16. What is the plan to keep police numbers ahead of attrition?
 17. How has an increase of nine (9) Superintendents and above affected the lower ranks of the Police Force? (*Page 80 refers*)
 18. What are the recruitment plans for the forthcoming reporting period for the recruitment of firefighters? *Page 80 refers*
 19. Is there a reason there was an increase of \$471,313 on expenditure at the Police College in this reporting period, in comparison to the previous reporting period? (*page 88 refers*)
 20. How is the work location (following graduation) of Police recruits determined? *Page 89 refers*
 21. How many people with a Banned Drinker Order (BDO) have been taken into protective custody since the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) has been re-introduced?
 22. How many people on a BDO since the BDR's re-introduction have been arrested for a crime, for example, domestic violence, property crime, stealing or assault?
 23. How many police-issued electronic monitoring bracelets have been issued in this reporting period?
 24. What did the land on which the new Palmerston police station will be built cost to acquire? (*Page 6 refers to the new Palmerston police station*)
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ANSWER:

1. The appointment of two deputies allows for the separation of the operational and non-operational areas of the service. The system is the same used in other police forces across Australia, providing governance and operational management benefits.
2. The increase in the Assistant Commissioner FTE is due to backfilling for leave purposes and is not a permanent appointment.
3. Budget 2017 approved \$45 million over four years to replace PROMIS. The new system will have a phased roll-out which is due for completion in the first half of 2022.
4. The Centralised Human Resource Management Centre will coordinate rosters and provide the NTPF executive greater oversight and efficiency across the service.
5. The creation of a 24-hour police service at Nightcliff is an election commitment which will be met.
6. The NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) has commenced planning and the development of contingencies to enable the continued provision of policing services to remote communities once the Commonwealth funding for those services cease.
7. Yes, the Wadeye Police Station complex has been completed.
8. The community resilience education and awareness programs are delivered by NT Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services staff and this includes having stalls and displays at community events such as the Darwin Show, expos etc. where members of the community can speak to staff and volunteers about preparedness activities etc. Education and resilience programs are also delivered by staff and volunteers within their own communities.
9. Representatives of the NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS), the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and United Voice are currently in negotiations for a new enterprise agreement to cover NT firefighters. Government wages policy provides for agreement outcomes with a total cost of up to 2.5 per cent per annum.
10. The parties agreed to seek assistance from the Police Arbitral Tribunal, through conciliation. Conciliation was finalised on 8 December 2017. The conciliator's formal recommendations are supported in-principle by the parties. An NTPA membership ballot is expected to commence in mid-January 2018.
11. Yes. NTFRS members, past and present who were exposed to AFFF products used by the NTFRS will have access to a voluntary blood-testing program.

12. The NT Emergency Service is always recruiting volunteers. This occurs by having a presence at community events, advertising in print and social media outlets and through word of mouth.
13. In the 2016-17 reporting period, Risk Management and Internal Audit Division (RMIA) was at full staffing capacity and therefore able to conduct more audits than the previous reporting period when staffing was at 75% FTE. Additionally, in 2016-17 the RMIA team took over management of the Police Watch House Audits which added an additional eight audits to the plan.
14. The name change was conducted to align the naming of the Command to the legislation provisions under the *Police Administration Act*, Division 6 – sections 34H through to 34M in which the Command is referred to as the Police Standards Command.
15. Price Waterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting undertook the Human Resource Management Review. The review recommendations are being implemented incrementally to ensure minimal impact on current staff and are on track for full implementation during the 2017-18 financial year.
16. Police attrition rates are currently at historically-low levels. The four-year recruitment plan has been developed to ensure the NTPF grows to 1,498 FTE by mid-2020. This growth represents an increase of 120 FTE over the number recorded in the 2011-12 Annual Report. On-going monitoring of attrition will determine numbers for each recruit squad, ensuring police numbers continue to increase on target with our mid-2020 goal.
17. The Annual Report figures are based on FTE, not positions. The increase in the Superintendent figure was due to backfilling for leave purposes.
18. Firefighter Recruit Squad 42 (12 members) commenced on 28 August 2017 and graduated on 21 December 2017. Firefighter Recruit Squad 43 will commence on 19 February 2018 (24 members) and graduate on 5 July 2018.
19. There was not an increase in expenditure for the NTPFES College. The change in total expenditure was the result of a structure realignment in July 2016 where the Indigenous Employment, Recruitment and Selections Command was dissolved as a Command and converted to a Division to come under the control of College Command. The relevant budget/expenditure transferred to the College Command.
20. The posting of Police recruits is determined by the Senior Executive on an operational needs basis.
21. Between 1 September 2017 and 30 November 2017, 265 people on a Banned Drinker Order were taken into protective custody.

22. Between 1 September 2017 and 30 November 2017, 277 people on a Banned Drinker Order were arrested.
23. Nil during 2016-17.
24. This question has been referred to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and will be answered under Written Question 156.