

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Tollner to Justice and Attorney-General

In relation to the operations of NT WorkSafe:

1) As on 1 April 2010,

- a) what is the total number of WorkSafe Officers with a responsibility for conducting on-site inspections;**

There are 27 positions with a responsibility for conducting on-site inspections. Two positions are currently vacant (1 x T3 and 1 x P2).

- b) what level are those WorkSafe Officers employed at;**

1 x T6; 6 x T5; 12 x T4; 5 x T3; 2 x P3; 1 x P2; (Total = 27)

- c) in 2009, how many workplace safety inspections were conducted. Please provide a breakdown by employment sector.**

In 2008/09 there were 4,809 workplace safety inspections carried out by Officers. A breakdown by industry sector is at Attachment A.

- d) How many prosecutions for work safety breaches were commenced from 1 January 2009;**

Three prosecutions for work safety breaches were commenced since 1 January 2009.

- e) How many improvement notices were issued from 1 January 2009;**

There were 204 improvement notices issued during the 2009 calendar year.

- f) How many workplace injuries have been reported from 1 January 2009. Please provide a breakdown by severity of injury;**

The only comprehensive data captured in relation to injuries is from workers compensation insurance claims. Thus, the answer can only be provided in respect of workers compensation insurance claims received by the insurers

during the calendar year 2009. In this period there were 2908 workers compensation insurance claims received, which includes 4 death claims. It's important to note that the date range refers to when the insurer received the claim, and not when the injury occurred.

A further breakdown of severity indicator is not possible, because this is not calculated until a claim is finalised. The majority of claims received in 2009 are not finalised, and therefore no severity indicators can be provided at this time.

- g) Is a permanent employee providing full time reception duties for the Division?**

There are eight staff who have responsibility to attend to front of house inquiries at NT WorkSafe.

- 2) What is the total paid for workers compensation insurance and benefits in the Northern Territory in 2009?**

The total paid for workers compensation insurance in the Northern Territory is data collected via an actuarial process which has not been completed for 2008/09 (note that actuarial reports are collated for financial years, not calendar years). Past actuarial reports on the NT Workers Compensation Scheme, including the most recent report for 2007-08, are available on the NT WorkSafe website:

www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/justice/worksafe/corporate/reports.shtml.

- 3) In relation to the fireworks disposal incident of September 2009. What practices have been changed and what additional expenditure will or has been made for the continuing activity.**

NT WorkSafe no longer manages the explosives reserve at Hidden Valley and no longer stores or disposes of explosives (fireworks) at that location. No additional expenditure is necessary at this time.

- 4) In relation to the chemical spill of 24 March 2009. What practices have been changed and what additional expenditure will or has been made for the continuing**

activity. Was any formal action taken against the organisations involved?

Patrick's Stevedoring conducted a review to ensure that appropriate equipment was used for unloading from trucks. The company complied with all of NTWS' instructions, and no further action was necessary. NTWS will not incur any extra expenditure.

5) Since the introduction of legislation that gives the power of entry to premises to employee representatives:

a) how many times has the right of entry provision been used;

Unknown. The Act places no obligation on parties to report.

b) how many premises have the powers been used at;

Unknown. The Act places no obligation on parties to report.

c) how many complaints or comments have been received in relation to the exercise of these powers; and

No formal complaints. Five initial inquiries regarding operation of provisions.

d) has any person found to be in breach of the legislation.

No.

Question 1 (c) - Workplace Safety Inspections

From 1/01/09 to 31/12/09

<u>Industry Group/Employment Sector</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
ACCOMMODATION, CAFES AND RESTAURANTS	194
AGRICULTURE & FISHING	34
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	4
CONSTRUCTION	1932
CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES	118
EDUCATION	164
ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER SUPPLY	100
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	1
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE	259
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	92
MANUFACTURING	220
MINING	317
PERSONAL AND OTHER SERVICES	240
PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES	183
RETAIL TRADE	656
TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	133
WHOLESALE TRADE	162
TOTAL:	4,809