

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Minister for Community Services:

Women's and Men's Engagement

1. Please provide details of all grants provided to organisations or individuals under the women and men's engagement output for 2013/14 including purpose of each grant, recipient and value of the grant.
2. Please provide details of progress with development of domestic and family violence action plans supported by the Department of Community Services including:
 - a) name of communities benefiting from each plan,
 - b) the consultations undertaken in each location,
 - c) the key issues and objectives contained in each community plan, and
 - d) the status of each plan and funding attached to assist with implementation of each plan.

ANSWER

1. The Office of Women's Advancement Grant Programs

- The Office of Women's Advancement (OWA) provides grant funding for a range of initiatives that support women and women's organisations throughout the Northern Territory.
- The OWA administers three scholarships and two grants programs to assist women and women's organisations to undertake study; to recognise and celebrate women's achievements; and to promote women's safety, gender equality and leadership and participation.
- The scholarships and grants program has a total annual funding pool of \$106 000.

Chief Minister's Scholarships for Women

- Three Chief Minister's Scholarships for Women are granted each year: one Higher Education scholarship and two Vocational Education and Training (VET) scholarships. In 2014, the recipients of the Chief Minister's Scholarships for Women were:

Scholarships	Recipient	Amount
Higher Education	Ms Laura Wright	\$16200
VET	Ms Joanne Scott	\$2000
VET	Ms Jane Wairimu	\$2000

International Women's Day

- Grants are available to all Territorians to support local events and activities that encourage participation of the community in International Women's Day activities that promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and encourage reflection and discussion on a range of women's issues.
- A total of \$18 930 in grant funding was distributed for the 2014 International Women's Day, from an available funding pool of \$20 000.

The following are the recipients of the 2014 International Women's Day grants.

Organisation/Individual	Event	Grant
Arafura Ensemble	Free public performance by the all-female ensemble celebrating women via music	\$1500
National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame	To provide a public open day at the National Pioneer Hall of Fame to present the history and future of women	\$850
Godinymayin Yijard River Arts and Culture	Women of the World Festival in Katherine	\$700
Austin Martial Arts	Women's Self Defence Course in Darwin	\$300
Tennant Creek Women's Refuge	'Empowering and Mentoring young women' Dinner in Tennant Creek	\$1000
Dawn House	Night of in-house fine dining for Dawn House residents in Darwin to support them in their quest for returning to a safe society	\$500
Business Professional Women Darwin	'Inspiring Change' talk in Darwin	\$1000
Chamber of Commerce Central Australia	Women in Business Lunch in Alice Springs	\$1000
NT Working Women's Centre	Film Night in Darwin	\$1000
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Ngukurr Women's Day Celebration	\$1200
Champagne Fitness	Open Day in Darwin	\$300
Girl Guides NT	Girl Guides Get Together in Darwin and Tennant Creek	\$1000
Central Australia Women's Legal Services	Film Fundraiser and event in Alice Springs	\$1000
Women's Network NT	'Average Life' Talk in Darwin	\$1000
Department of Health	Wurrumiyanga Island Girls BBQ Lunch	\$1000
NT Women Lawyers Association	'NT women who are making a difference' discussion in Darwin	\$1000

Organisation/Individual	Event	Grant
YWCA Darwin	Luncheon in Darwin	\$1000
SIDS and Kids	Luncheon and Certificates presentation for bereavement volunteers in Darwin	\$580
United Nations Association of Australia NT	International Women's Day Walk, Reception and Mini-expo in Darwin	\$1000
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council	Photography Project for women and girls in Aputula	\$2000

General Grants

- The Office of Women's Advancement has an annual general grant funding pool of \$65 800. The general grants program is currently under review and more information will be available on our website soon. As at 31 March 2014, for the 2013/14 financial year, the following organisations/individuals were the recipients of General Grants funding:

Organisation/Individual	Event	Grant
Barkly Tablelands Women's Day	October 2013 and May 2014 Barkly Women's Day events	\$4000
Women's Network NT	2014 International Women's Day Breakfast in Darwin	\$1000
Ms Danielle Loy	Launched 'Little Big Love' book	\$3540
Arrulka Business Aboriginal Corporation	Mbantua Festival 2013	\$20000
Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi	Desert Song Festival in Alice Springs	\$10000
Monica Stewart	2013 World Triathlon Aged Championships being held in London in September 2013	\$500
The Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) (formally National Centre of Excellence)	To reduce violence against women and their children	\$15450

2 Second Action Plan (2013-2016) under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children

The National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (*The National Plan*) is a long term plan agreed by all Australian governments. The National Plan's vision is that:

Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities.

The Second Action Plan is the second of four stages of the National Plan. Through the Office of Women's Advance (OWA), the Department of Community Services (DoCS) has represented the Northern Territory Government on the Commonwealth, State and Territories Senior Official Working Group to develop and design the Second Action Plan which was endorsed by the Minister for Women's Policy and launched by the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP in June 2014.

2a) All residents of the Northern Territory will benefit from the Second Action Plan, with particular emphasis on remote communities.

2b) To develop the Second Action Plan, consultations were held across the Northern Territory with non-government and government organisations including round table discussions in Adelaide and Canberra facilitated by Senator, the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women.

2c) The Second Action Plan presents 26 practical actions – areas of work that all governments have agreed to focus on so that we can take the next steps towards stopping violence against women and their children.

The five national priorities are:

- Driving whole of community action to prevent violence
- Understanding diverse experiences of violence
- Supporting innovative services and integrated systems
- Improving perpetrator interventions
- Continuing to build the evidence base

The 26 Actions of the Second Action Plan are:

National Priority 1: Driving whole of community action to prevent violence

1. Support communities to prevent, respond to and speak out against violence, through local government, business community and sporting groups, schools and key institutions.
2. Improve media engagement on violence against women and their children, and representation of women experiencing violence, at a national and local level.
3. Take the next step to reduce violence against women and their children by promoting gender equality across a range of spheres, including women's economic independence and leadership.
4. Support young people through *The Line* campaign and addressing issues relating to the sexualisation of children.
5. Build on the findings of the respectful relationships evaluation, to strengthen the design and delivery of respectful relationship programmes, and implement them more broadly.
6. Incorporate respectful relationships education into the national curriculum.

7. Enhance online safety for children and young people.

National Priority 2: Understanding diverse experiences of violence

8. Meet the needs of Indigenous women and their children through improving access to information and resources, and providing avenues for advocacy and leadership.
9. Improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians through building community safety.
10. Gain a better understanding of 'what works' in improving Indigenous community safety.
11. Work with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to reduce violence and support women and their children, particularly those who can be most vulnerable.
12. Deliver awareness raising, training and prevention activities and responses to violence that are tailored to meet the needs of women with disability, including based on outcomes from the Stop the Violence project, and continuing to build the evidence base.

National Priority 3: Supporting innovative services and integrated systems

13. Continue building first stop support for women and their children experiencing violence, based on 'what works,' and develop national standards for telephone and online counselling services.
14. Strengthen systems and service integration to ensure that specialist responses for identifying and responding to violence against women and their children are supported and effective.
15. Strengthen service delivery models and systems integration, including in remote and cross-border contexts, to meet the needs of Indigenous women and their children experiencing violence.
16. Support for children who have experienced, witnessed or been exposed to violence.
17. Improve information sharing across court processes.
18. Implement a national scheme for family and domestic violence protection orders.
19. Drive continuous improvement in systems through reviewing domestic and family violence related deaths and child deaths.
20. Continue to strengthen pro-active policing, highlighting and building on good practice.

National Priority 4: Improving perpetrator interventions

21. Improve the evidence base on perpetrator interventions, with a focus on reducing recidivism and a better understanding of high-risk groups.
22. Finalise and set national outcome standards for best practice perpetrator interventions.
23. Build capacity to implement national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions and improve the quality and quantity of perpetrator interventions.

National Priority 5: Continuing to build the evidence base

24. Expand the quality and quantity of national research on violence against women and their children through the implementation of the National Research Agenda.
25. Measure the prevalence of violence against women and their children and community attitudes towards violence through national surveys.
26. Build the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework.

2d) The Department of Community Services is currently finalising the Strategic Plan for delivery of the 26 Actions.

In addition to the above; through OWA, DoCS has made a financial commitment to ***The Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children (The Foundation)*** chaired by Natasha Stott Despoja (Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls).

The Foundation will address the core driver of violence against women and their children.

The Foundation acknowledges in particular Australia's First People, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and is committed to working in a culturally aware and respectful engagement at all times.

DoCS will work in collaboration with The Foundation to Prevent violence – ultimately ending violence against women and their children; and

Through OWA, DoCS has made a financial commitment to **The Australian National Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)**.

The role of ANROWS is to lead the large scale multi-jurisdictional projects of the Second action Plan that require active involvement from a number of jurisdictions.

Projects include but are not limited to:

Improving legal and justice responses to violence against women

The effects of social and geographic isolation and remoteness on the ability for women to disclose, report, seek help and receive appropriate interventions following experiences of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

The role of Indigenous cultures, including cultural resilience, healing, and raising children in extended family networks, as potential protective factors in preventing or responding to violence against women.