

# WRITTEN QUESTIONS

## 7th Assembly

12/01/1996

89. **Correctional Services Operations**

**Ms. HICKEY to MINISTER for CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

### QUESTION

1. Have any Department of Correctional Services ancillary operational services been privatised since the 1992-93 financial year; if so, what are they.
2. Have Community Aid Panels been established; if so:
  - (a) where have they been established; and
  - (b) what is the composition of the Panels.
3. How many parole officers are employed in:
  - (a) Katherine and its regions;
  - (b) Nhulunbuy and its regions;
  - (c) Tennant Creek and its regions; and
  - (d) Darwin and its regions.
4. Which communities have Aboriginal Community Corrections Officers and where is it intended to locate those officers in the 1995-96 financial year.
5. Have all managers undertaken training in recruitment and selection.
6. Has the Department of Correctional Services determined performance criteria for all positions above base grade.
7. Has the Department of Correctional Services completed development of the performance management system.
8. Has the Department of Correctional Services commenced training in performance management.
9. Has the number of women in management positions in custodial operations increased since the 1992-93 financial year; if so, by how many.
10. Has a computerised tracking system and skills inventory to monitor the training and

development needs of all Department of Correctional Services staff been introduced.

11. Has a long-term strategy for the development and training of all Department of Correctional Services staff been developed.
12. Has an Occupational Health and Safety Plan for the Department of Correctional Services been introduced and developed.
13. Has a health care plan of all Departmental employees been introduced.
14. Has the feasibility of a voluntary probation officer programme been examined; if so, what was the outcome of that examination.
15. With respect to the Home Detention Programme:
  - (a) how many people are on this programme;
  - (b) in which urban centres or communities are they based;
  - (c) has home detention been introduced as a “back end” sentencing option;
  - (d) has the surveillance of the Home Detention Programme been privatised in the Darwin region; and
  - (e) has the programme been extended to communities outside major centres; if so, how many Aboriginal people from non-urban centres are on the programme.
16. Given the Northern Territory Government’s policy to reduce the numbers of fine defaulters and persons charged with drink driving offences in prison, what were the statistics for imprisonment for those offenders during the following financial years:
  - (a) 1992-93;
  - (b) 1993-94; and
  - (c) 1994-95.
17. Has any public awareness campaign been undertaken in relation to the community service orders programme.
18. How many caregivers have been recruited and trained to enable the Juvenile Courts to provide a Juvenile Offender Placement Programme and:
  - (a) is this number sufficient for the needs of the Juvenile Courts;
  - (b) does the Government plan to increase this number; and
  - (c) when was the last caregiver recruited.
19. Have five year plans been produced for:
  - (a) the Don Dale Centre;
  - (b) the Wilderness Work Camp; and

- (c) the Gunn Point Prison, and;  
if so, when was the last of these plans produced for each centre and what are the details contained therein.
20. Has a five year land use plan been devised for Gunn Point Prison; if so:
- (a) when was it devised; and
  - (b) was any element of the plan implemented and; if so, at what cost.
21. Have the Special Response Group and the Dog Squad been integrated for emergency procedures at the three prisons cited above.
22. Has a Special Response Group been established at the Alice Springs Prison.
23. Has the Officer and Prisoner Identification System been developed and implemented at all Northern Territory prisons.
24. Have prison industries conferences been convened; if so, on what occasions.
25. Has at least one profit making industry been introduced at each prison.
26. Have education facilities been developed in all Department of Correctional Services institutions; if not, which institutions do not have education facilities.
27. With respect to the 1993 Northern Territory Government proposal to introduce a prison management system which would allow prisoners to earn additional privileges in cells:
- (a) was this implemented;
  - (b) if the answer to 27(a) is yes, what are the details of this system;
  - (c) what privileges did the system extend; and
  - (d) did this system apply to all institutions and all sectors within those institutions.
28. Have on-site welfare personnel and suitable office accommodation for these personnel been provided at every institution.
29. Has a comprehensive prisoner reception procedure been introduced at Darwin Prison.
30. Have financial management courses for middle and senior management been organised and conducted; if so, how many staff participated in those courses.
31. Have annual internal audit plans for the Department of Correctional Services been introduced.
32. Has a Department of Correctional Services Information Plan been prepared and implemented.

33. Has the Department of Correctional Services put into place public relations and media liaison functions.
34. Has a comprehensive set of performance management indicators been introduced within the Department of Correctional Services to measure the attainment of corporate objective; if so, when was this instigated.
35. When was the decision made to close Gunn Point Prison.
36. Did the Northern Territory Government transfer the majority of prisoners from Gunn Point Prison to Darwin Prison during the 1994 and 1995 calendar years; if so, what was the reason for those transfers.
37. Given that the estimated cost of the new Alice Springs Prison was stated to be \$20million:
  - (a) what is the estimated cost to date of its establishment;
  - (b) what is the estimated final cost; and
  - (c) has this cost increased from the original estimate; if so, what are the reasons.

## ANSWER

Answered on 04/07/96

1. Yes. Primary health care to prisoners and Juvenile Detainees has been contracted out.
2. Community Aid Panels under the Community Justice program have been created in Katherine, Alice Springs and Yuendumu. The composition of the panels include Police, Correctional Services, Aboriginal organisations, legal services and community groups. The Alice Springs and Yuendumu Panels are diversionary conferencing (a variation of Community Aid Panels).
3.
  - (a) Three
  - (b) Two
  - (c) Two
  - (d) Twenty-two
4. As detailed at page 33 of the Department's Annual Report 1994/95 there are 11. These are: Yirrkala, Umbakumba, Angurugu, Port Keats, Ngukurr, Kalkaringi, Lajamanu, Tennant Creek, Ti Tree, Yuendumu and Papunya. A further three ACCO's are being considered for Hermannsburg, Maningrida and the Tiwi Islands in 1995/96.
5. During 1995 the Department ran a series of courses entitled "Selection, Interview and Writeups" in most regional centres to qualify staff for membership of selection panels. Most members of selection panels during 1995 had attended such a course and by mid 1996, all panel

members will be so qualified.

6. No. The Australia Wide Competency Standards project is not complete and performance criteria will be developed from that project; however all job profiles and selection criteria have been amended to be job specific and job related.
7. Yes.
8. Yes.
9. Yes, from one to two and six female officers are soon to undertake Senior Prison Officer Promotional Courses.
10. Skills inventory complete and tracking system purchased; however it is expected the new Northern Territory wide PIPS training module will take over.
11. Yes.
12. Draft plan has been prepared and an Occupational Health and Safety Committee formed with sub-committees in each major workplace. The plan will be finalised shortly with specialist advice from the Department of Transport and Works.
13. An approach to health and fitness assessment is being drafted and should be in place by July 1996, subject to consultation with staff associations.
14. Yes and will proceed to trial when funds are available for very intensive training and support mechanisms.

2.

15. (a) As at January 1996, 38 persons are on the program.
- (b)
- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Yuendumu      | Aboriginal 3 |
| Alice Springs | Aboriginal 2 |
| Santa Teresa  | Aboriginal 1 |
| Hermannsburg  | Aboriginal 1 |
| Darwin        | Aboriginal 1 |
|               | Other 20     |
| Palmerston    | Aboriginal 1 |
|               | Other 2      |
| Katherine     | Aboriginal 1 |
|               | Other 2      |
| Lajamanu      | Aboriginal 1 |
| Tennant Creek | Aboriginal 2 |
| Ali Curung    | Aboriginal 1 |
- (c) No, however Home detention can be linked to parole release.
- (d) No, because the number of clients would not make it cost effective. Part-time paid members of the community undertake the physical surveillance.
- (e) Yes, seven, Aboriginal people - see (b) above.
16. (a) Data for 92/93 is not available because of a change in computer systems.
- (b) Fine defaulters 252; sentenced drink drivers 116.
- (c) Fine defaulters 279; sentenced drink drivers 96.
17. The Department takes every opportunity to make public the Community Service Order program. No formal public relations exercise has been undertaken.
18. (a) Yes, 11.
- (b) Only if numbers of clients increase.
- (c) December 1995.
19. (a) and (b)
- Business Plans will be developed following the acceptance of the outcome of the Strategic Directions Review, as is the case for all individual workplaces.
- (c) Draft Strategic Plan for Gunn Point has been abandoned as the centre has been closed.
- The Business Plans for the two Detention Centres have not been finalised and therefore the details is not available.
20. A five year land use plan for the Gunn Point Rural Correctional Centre was never completed and therefore, no element of it was put in place. No longer relevant.

21. The Special Response Group and Dog Squad have been integrated for Darwin and Gunn Point but not the Juvenile Detention facilities cited as they are not prisons and do not use the services of this unit.
22. Not as yet.
23. Yes.
24. Yes, three conferences have been held in 1989, 1992 and 1994.

3.

25. No. Alice Springs manufactures number plates and the industries at other institutions are mainly aimed at reducing operational costs and prisoner training.
26. Yes.
27. No, however existing privileges have been maintained. A revised prisoner earnings system has been developed and will be introduced shortly. This will permit prisoners a greater choice of consumable purchases and amenities.
28. Yes for the Top End and will be in place for the new Alice Springs Correctional Centre. Staff have been recruited for all locations. Present accommodation at the Darwin Correctional Centre is currently being reviewed.
29. Yes.  
  
In addition housing for newly received prisoners has been improved enabling a better “settling in” process particularly for young first timers.
30. Each year middle and senior managers have been involved in seminars preparing that years budgets. No actual financial management courses have yet been provided.
31. A series of audits were done between 1990 and 1992, Operation Canary 92/93 and two internal audits were carried out in 94/95. Each year the Department advises its audit requirements to the Internal Audit Bureau. In 1995/96 a series of audit-reviews were undertaken into finance, information technology, staff training and development, and planning. Other aspects such as sick leave and overtime are currently being examined.
32. A draft Office Automation plan was prepared in November 1995 with assistance from NCOM.
33. No. The Department experimented with a Public Relations position but decided the function was neither warranted nor cost effective. The function is a responsibility of all management personnel.

34. Yes. For the last three annual reports the Department has identified efficiency and effectiveness indicators and over the last 18 months has participated in a national exercise determining benchmarks and agreed upon indicators of performance.
35. The decision to close Gunn Point was made on 5 December 1995.
36. The majority of prisoners were transferred back to Darwin Correctional Centre in April/May 1995 because the Gunn Point facility was being considered for immigration detention purposes and in the latter half of 1995, the movement was related to security concerns relating to prisoner classification of some inmates.
37.
  - (a) approximately \$27 million.
  - (b) \$31.4 million.
  - (c) Committee stage questions on the budget 1994/95 showed that the estimate at that stage was \$25.8 million prior to final tenders. A comprehensive operational review was carried out by expert consultants in August 1995 which identified a number of additional requirements concerning items such as security systems, prisoner and staff amenities, fencing and surveillance cameras. These are now being addressed before the Centre opens. The additional requirements have delayed the commissioning of the Centre until mid 1996.