

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

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From: Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula

To: Hon Kate Worden

Portfolio: Police, Fire & Emergency Services

Agency: NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services

Subject: Language and cultural training for police officers

QUESTION:

How many hours of language and cultural training is provided to police officers based in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER:

There is no definitive number of hours that can be provided due to the different types of training and information that is provided to members. Summary of training is provided below.

Training at the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (PFES) College

Provides over five days or 40 hours, which includes the following:

- **Cultural Awareness Program**

All recruits, across all streams, complete a three day Cultural Awareness Program. This includes completing a written assignment and group presentation on a first nation's language.

- **Culturally Responsive Trauma Informed Care**

A two day training course is provided by the Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance of the NT. This training focuses on trauma informed care and suicide prevention.

Induction to a regional centre after completion at the PFES College Training

New members undergo an initial day induction at the location, which includes introduction to all key community stakeholders and groups and any culturally significant locations.

Remote Police Stations

There are Remote Station Induction Guides for all NT remote stations which contain information about the Station, the community, service providers and facilities available within the community.

Currently, each Police Officer commencing within a Station should undergo an Induction Session provided by the Office in Charge of the Station.

Community Resilience and Engagement Command (CREC)

The CREC have recently trialled two Pilot Cultural Inductions to new Alice Springs recruits, alongside the Station Induction. The Cultural Inductions Pilots have included the following:

- Welcome to Country by an appropriate Elder and/or Traditional Owner;
- An information session about the local area and its history, customs, and how to consider culture and Country in the day to day police operations;
- Information delivered by the CREC team about the Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) Program and how ALOs assist to improve work outcomes because of their linkages to culture, country and language and the importance of proactive engagement with the community;
- Information about Aboriginal Community Police Officers and the value they bring to community policing.

Additionally ALOs, who are local community employed members, are based across 30 communities with the program expanding to other communities.