

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Chief Minister:

Alice Springs Curfew

- 1. How many additional Northern Territory Police were deployed in Alice Springs during the curfew?**

Fifty three additional police were available for rostering in Alice Springs during the Declaration period, with the number varying from day to day and shift to shift.

- 2. How many additional South Australian Police were deployed in Alice Springs during the curfew?**

Ten South Australian Police worked in Alice Springs during the Declaration period.

- 3. How many additional Territory Family staff were utilised during the curfew? Please provide details as to the number and designation of these staff.**

During the emergency response, the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC) provided a surge workforce and service delivery response that included:

- Six Co-Responder/Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Team staff in three patrol teams of two, from 6pm - 6am. This was triple the normal staffing complement of two staff each shift from 6pm – 3am.
- Between two to four staff working seven days a week. This was an increase from operating during normal business hours.
- The extension of Public Housing Safety Officers night shift from 3pm to 3am (normally finishing at 1am).

During the Declaration, 37 TFHC staff worked a total of 819 hours of paid overtime.

These TFHC staff were taken from the normal business as usual operating capacity of the Department's Central Australia region, with Table 1 outlining the number of hours of overtime undertaken by the Department's staff:

Table 1 – Designation, Number and Overtime hours of TFHC staff during Declaration

Designation	Number of Staff at Designation
SP2	1
SAO2	1
SP1	3
SAO1	4
P3	3
AO7	2
P2	2
AO6	4
AO5	8
AO4	9
TOTALS	37

4. How many referrals and Child Notifications were generated by Territory Families whilst the curfew was in progress?

During the Declaration, 35 notifications proceeded to Child Protection investigations across the whole of Alice Springs.

5. Which non-governmental agencies provided assistance during the curfew? Please provide details as to which organisation, the number of personal from each organisation and the role of each staff member.

As part of the existing Patroller Network, Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation and Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation Community patrols provided the regular youth and adult after hours transport options.

Furthermore, non-government partners were informed and their involvement was facilitated through the Interagency Task Coordination Group (ITCG), which met regularly during the Declaration. These partners included but were not limited to, Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs Town Council, National Indigenous Australians Agency and Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation.

6. How many contacts were made by police with juveniles within the High Risk Area of Alice Springs during the curfew?

A total of 338 youth were engaged by NT Police within the high risk area (HRA) during the Declaration period.

7. How many contacts were made by police with juveniles outside the High Risk Area of Alice Springs during the curfew?

NT Police have advised Statistical Data was only recorded locally specific to the Declaration and incidents within the HRA during the Declaration.

8. How many juveniles were removed from the High Risk Area of Alice Springs during the curfew?

A total of 406 young people were removed from the HRA.

9. How many juveniles were removed from the High Risk Area of Alice Springs and taken to the Territory Families Safe housing during the curfew?

Safe Sleeping was not required to support a young person during the Declaration, and no juveniles were taken to TFHC safe sleeping facility during the Declaration.

10. How many juveniles were removed from the High Risk Area of Alice Springs and taken home to a Responsible Adult during the curfew?

406.

11. How many incidents of juvenile criminal activity or antisocial behaviors were recorded during the curfew? Please provide details on these figure for both within and outside of the High Risk Area.

NT Police advised information outside of period of the Declaration is not high risk area identifiable. There were two reported incidents believed to involve Youth/s during the Declaration Period within the HRA:

- i. Robbery on 5 April 2024, Barrett Drive – this was investigated by Alice Springs Criminal Investigation Branch.
- ii. Property Damage on 8 April 2024, Hartley Street. Business premise had a window smashed by a 13 year old.

12. What is the total cost to the NT Government of implementing the Alice Springs Youth Curfew from Wednesday 27 March to Tuesday 16 April 2024?

Indicative costings associated to the implementation of the Declaration across the Northern Territory Government is approximately \$848 148.

13. Please provide a breakdown of all costs to all NT Government agencies involved in the implementation of the Alice Springs Youth Curfew including:

- a) Police
 - b) Territory
 - c) Health
 - d) Department of Chief Minister & Cabinet
- a) NT Police – \$742 000 within existing budget.

- b) TFHC – final costings will not be available until the end of the financial year. Table 2 outlining the indicative costs below:

Table 2 – Description and amount breakdown of indicative costs

Description	Amount
Employee Overtime	\$82,723
Employee travel	\$5,297
Employee other	\$18,128
TOTALS	\$106,148

- c) Health – nil costs additional costs incurred for NT Health Central Australia Region.
- d) Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet – staffing costs to support NT Police Emergency Operation Centre planning team was covered within existing budget.

14. What non-Government organisations funded by the NT Government were involved in the implementation of the Alice Springs Youth Curfew?

As highlighted in Question 5, TFHC and NT Police leveraged from already funded services delivered by non-Government organisations and no additional funding was provided.

15. Please provide a breakdown of any additional NT Government was provided to any non-Government organisation to assist in the implementation of the Alice Springs Youth Curfew.

TFHC worked closely with NT Police during the Declaration to support young people to access sporting events, youth activities through the school holiday program in a safe and appropriate manner, as approved by NT Police.

The April school holidays occurred during the Declaration between 6 and 14 April 2024. As a part of the school holiday program, a total of 3238 attendances by children, young people and their families were recorded at programs funded by the Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth Government. This was a significant increase in the rate of attendance compared to April 2023 school holiday period which recorded 1527 attendances at activities.

TFHC has also noted the combined 2024 youth centre attendances have increased by 67% compared to attendance rates recorded in 2023.

16. How many children were removed by authorities from the Alice Springs Youth Curfew zone during the curfew? Where were they taken?

Refer to Question 8.

17. How many incidents of crime involving children were reported in Alice Springs during the Youth Curfew?

NT Police have advised this data covering all of Alice Springs is not readily available.

18. How many incidents of crime involving children were reported in the Alice Springs CBD during the Youth Curfew?

Refer answer to Question 11 ii.

19. Does the NT Government intend to evaluate the effectiveness of the Alice Springs Youth Curfew?

The post Declaration response is an iterative process that will be adapted accordingly to effectiveness of actions and intervention as assessed by the Territory Community Safety Coordination Centre and Central Australia Regional Coordination Committee, on advice from the ITCG and Youth Interagency Strategic Coordination Group.

While there has not been a commitment to formally evaluate the effectiveness of the Declaration, NT Police are committed to continually improving policing operations and will self-review effectiveness after each declaration. The new legislation stipulates that the Ombudsman, after 12 months of operation, will examine the following (section 135J);

- a) the grounds for making any public disorder declarations;
- b) the exercise by members of the powers conferred by section 135D;
- c) whether those powers have been exercised appropriately;
- d) whether any amendments should be made to this Division; and
- e) any other matters that the Ombudsman considers relevant.

20. What records have been kept on the operational roll-out and implementation of the Alice Springs Youth Curfew?

NT Police and TFHC have maintained client records and operational data obtained through the Declaration in line with agency data recording processes.

All government agencies must keep full and accurate records of their business activities. This is to comply with the *Information Act 2002* which governs recordkeeping for Northern Territory public authorities.