

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Youth Justice:

Residential youth justice camps

1. I understand there is \$15 million per annum in 2024-25 and 2025-26 to establish residential youth justice camps in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs:

a. How will these be different from youth detention centres?

These new Residential Youth Justice Facilities will give courts more sentencing options for young people caught breaking the law.

The facilities are an alternative to remand or detention and will provide intensive support to young people including education and training, health and other specialist support to help young people get them back on the path to a positive life.

The facilities will offer a range of programs including Residential Youth Justice program (sentenced order) and Supported Accommodation (bail).

These will be 'live in' facilities to ensure that court sentences and orders are enforced, while also providing training and education services to help young people get their lives back on track and get into the workforce.

The Residential Youth Justice facilities will deliver intensive programs designed to address a young person's criminogenic behaviours.

b. How many children will they hold?

In Darwin, up to 16 young people can be accommodated.

In Tennant Creek up to 8 young people can be accommodated

It is anticipated the Alice Springs and Katherine facilities will be able to accommodate a minimum of 8 young people.

c. What time frames will children be held for?

Young people will not be held as such. Ideally, young people will live in the facilities for a minimum of 3-6 months, with the possibility of longer stays, depending on the timeframes applied by the Courts.

d. Can family stay with children?

The facilities will offer areas designed to support family visits however, there is not currently the ability for family to be accommodate on site.

e. Can family request that children are sent home?

Territory Families, Housing and Communities' specialised Youth Justice teams and a range of funded providers will work holistically with young people and their families as part of the wrap around service being offered to assist young people to get onto a safer, healthier trajectory.

Families will be engaged in the work done with young people. Families' views will be explored and considered in the context of the work.

The ultimate aim for all children and young people is that they are able to live safely and thrive within the family environment.