

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

#### **Appropriation Bill – Attorney General and Justice**

1. Please provide copies of:
  - All questions, which have been received from the public in relation to the Estimates process and consideration of the Appropriation Bill for the 2017/18 financial year; and
  - The answers to those questions that were presented to the Estimates Committee.

Please provide the information requested below for the Department of Attorney-General and Justice and the Department of Health, as at 31 March 2017.

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<b>DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND JUSTICE</b>
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*Please accept apologies if questions are not under the correct Output. Where this is the case, it would be appreciated if you could indicate the appropriate Output in your response. Thank You.*

#### **OUTPUT GROUP: LEGAL SERVICES**

#### **OUTPUT: SOLICITOR FOR THE NT (SFNT)**

1. Please detail expenditure relating to current or former Ministers for possible or actual defamation proceedings in 2016/17.
2. Please detail expenditure relating to Ministers and other possible legal proceedings involving the Territory in 2016/17, including:
  - a. How many SFNT staff are performing work for the Royal Commission, either on a full-time, ad hoc or temporary basis? How many SFNT staff have been seconded to the Royal Commission? How many of those staff are permanent SFNT staff and how many are temporary hires?
  - b. How many unfilled solicitor positions does SFNT currently have, whether they be contract, temporary or permanent?

- c. Has SFNT estimated the potential value of the class action brought by Maurice Blackburn of former detainees at Don Dale and if so, what is the estimate?
- d. Has provision been made in the budget for the contingent liability represented by the estimated cost of a settlement or trial verdict in the Maurice Blackburn class action? If so, what is that provision?
- e. How many AGD staff have been, or will be, allocated to the Northern Territory Government's comprehensive public review of the Northern Territory's alcohol policies and legislation and what is the estimated cost of that review to AGD?
- f. How many AGD staff have been allocated to the Dan Murphy's litigation currently pending in the Federal Court and how much has been spent on outside counsel as part of the Dan Murphy's litigation?

#### **OUTPUT: LEGAL POLICY**

1. What is the subject matter of each legislation review that has been conducted by the Legal Policy Unit of AGD since 1 September 2017 and the anticipated date that those reviews will be concluded?
2. How many matters have been referred to the Northern Territory Law Reform Committee by the Attorney-General since 1 September 2016, what are the terms of reference of those matters and what action, if any, has been taken on recommendations received from the Committee?
3. Has a review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act* been conducted and, if so, will the results of that review be made public?
4. Is the *Summary Offences Act* being reviewed and will it be updated in the near future?
5. What is the ongoing funding increase (or decrease) for the Legal Aid Commission for financial year 2017/18?
6. What amount has the Government budgeted to create additional sentencing options for judges when releasing alleged offenders on bail and parole, including options for judges to sentence offenders to the completion of a particular program, VET or skills training?

7. How much has been set aside in the budget to develop additional options for alleged offenders released on bail, where detention in a correctional facility is inappropriate, but release into the community may also be undesirable?
8. How much has been set aside in the budget to provide additional options for study, rehabilitation and skills training for offenders sentenced to a community based order under Division 4 and 4A of the *Sentencing Act*?

#### **OUTPUT: CRIME VICTIMS SERVICES UNIT**

1. The Safe at Home program makes a significant contribution to the Government's support framework for victims of crime; has recurrent funding been continued into financial year 2017/18? If so, what is the amount of that recurrent funding?
2. In 2016 an Alice Springs office was established for the Safe at Home program, is that office fully operational and has funding been provided for victims of crime in Alice Springs?
3. With the dramatic increase of residential property crime in the Territory, has Victims of Crime Northern Territory (the provider of the Safe at Home program) sufficient resources to provide for the anticipated demand in financial year 2017/18?
4. How many Territorians have requested assistance under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act* since 1 September 2016 and how much has been paid out to victims during that time period?

#### **OUTPUT: CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

1. Have there been any changes in the manner in which crime statistics are collected, reported or presented since 1 September 2016?
2. Are the statistics presented on the 'Northern Territory crime statistics' website a, without alteration, direct reporting of statistics reported by police on offences, as has become the norm in other jurisdictions?

## **OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

### **OUTPUT: CUSTODIAL SERVICES**

1. Aside from the Royal Commission, are there currently any reviews, inquiries or consultations being undertaken, either internally or externally, of custodial operations in the Territory or any facet thereof? If so, who is conducting those reviews, how much are they being remunerated and what is the subject matter of the review, inquiry or consultation?
2. How much was spent in financial year 2016/17 to address problems at the Darwin Correctional Centre, including inadequate sewage treatment, lack of planning regarding work and education programs and overcrowding? How much is budgeted for 2017/18?
3. In financial year 2016/17, what was the average cost per prisoner, per year in the Northern Territory?
4. In financial year 2016/17, what was the average cost per prisoner, per year at the Darwin Correctional Centre?
5. In financial year 2016/17, what was the average cost per prisoner, per year at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre?
6. Does Corrections evaluate offenders for drug or alcohol dependence and, if so, what treatment accommodations exist for offenders sentenced to remand that are determined to be dependent on alcohol or other drugs?
7. How many escapes, either attempted or completed escapes from Territory correctional facilities have occurred since 1 September 2016?

### ***Education and Offender Programs***

1. How much will be spent per prisoner on VET training, work experience and language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) training in 2017/18?
2. How many prisoners participated in the Sentenced to a Job program in financial year 2016/17 and how does that compare with financial year 2015/16?
3. How many prisoners are currently participating in the Sentenced to a Job program?

4. How much funding has been appropriated towards the Sentenced to a Job program for financial year 2017/18 and how does that compare with 2016/17?
5. What vocational, skills training or alternative education programs are currently available to prisoners at the Darwin Correctional Centre and Alice Springs Correctional Centre, respectively? Have any programs been cut since 1 September 2016 at either facility?

### ***Correctional Industries and Employment***

1. How much revenue was realised from correctional industries in financial year 2016/17?
2. Are expansions or additions to the correctional industries programs budgeted for financial year 2017/18?
3. What is the current list of active correctional industries and employment programs? Have any such programs been cut since 1 September 2017?

### **OUTPUT: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

1. How much has been budgeted for offender post-release supported accommodation in the 2017/18 budget?
2. What is the total amount budgeted for alternate bail accommodations, post-release accommodation and other alternatives to traditional detention for 2017-18, broken down by category, program provider and tender process?

### **OUTPUT: PAROLE BOARD**

1. What is the current composition of the parole board?
2. Has additional funding been provided to implement the *Parole Amendment Bill 2017* that was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in May of this year?

## **OUTPUT GROUP: COURT AND TRIBUNAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **OUTPUT: HIGHER COURTS**

1. Are there plans to add a seventh judge to the Supreme Court, perhaps one based full-time in Alice Springs, to help ease the pressure from an ever increasing case load?

### **OUTPUT: LOWER COURTS AND TRIBUNALS**

1. How many applications were made to NTCAT in 2016/17 and what is the projected number for 2017/18, broken down by the particular act conferring jurisdiction? Is the additional funding allocated sufficient to compensate for increased filings and jurisdictional grants?

### **OUTPUT: FINES RECOVERY UNIT**

1. How many fine defaulters were included on the 'name and shame list' (with fines owing in excess of \$10,000) at 31 March 2016? What was the average number for the 2016/17 financial year?
2. What measures are being implemented to provide for increased enforcement for defaulters on the 'name and shame' list?
3. What fine recovery enforcement measures are provided for in the 2017/18 budget; for example, has additional expenditure been provided for automatic number plate recognition devices to help identify and immobilise vehicles of fine defaulters?

### **OUTPUT: INTEGRATED JUSTICE INFORMATION UNIT**

1. What progress has been made on the modernisation of IJIS over the past year and how much is budgeted for further improvements, such as an Integrated Case Management System for Courts and Tribunals, in financial year 2017/18? Will the monies allocated to upgrade PROMIS also be used to upgrade IJIS?

## **OUTPUT GROUP: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

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1. What increase in funding was requested by the DPP and what was the basis for this request (i.e., increased demand due to increased criminal

filings in the Local Court and Supreme Court)? Was the full amount approved and, if not, why not? What was the rationale for not approving the full requested amount?

2. How much is allocated for external counsel in the 2017/18 budget?
3. Please identify any external counsel that were contracted to supplement the DPP's case load during financial year 2016/17 and, for each, please identify how much those parties were paid.

## **OUTPUT GROUP: INDEPENDENT OFFICES**

### **OUTPUT: CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

1. What date will be set for fuel retailers to comply with the 2017 amendment to the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act* and when will the MyFuel website be operational?

### **OUTPUT: CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER**

1. How many complaints has the Children's Commissioner received since 1 September 2016 regarding children in the care of the Territory Government broken down into indigenous and non-indigenous children?
2. How many complaints has the Children's Commissioner received since 1 September 2016 involving youth in detention facilities in the Territory broken down into indigenous and non-indigenous children?

### **OUTPUT: LICENSING NT**

1. How much money has been budgeted for the Government's Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review?
2. How many AGD staff, if any, will be seconded to take part in the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review, as represented by FTEs?
3. What consultation, review or inquiry was held prior to the Government's introduction of the Liquor Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 on 10 May 2017 and how much was spent on that consultation, review or inquiry?
4. How many liquor licenses are currently under review and what is the timeline for completing those reviews?

5. Aside from the Dan Murphy's matter currently pending in the Federal Court, how many court actions are currently pending against the Territory Government concerning licensing matters?
6. What is the Licensing NT policy with regards to objections by the NTPFES to objections or proposed restrictions to licensing applications?
7. Is licensing NT required to accept NTPFES objections or proposed restrictions to licensing applications?

#### **OUTPUT: NT WORKSAFE**

1. How many legal actions are currently pending either against or on behalf of the Territory Government to which NT Worksafe is a party? Please provide the details.

#### **OUTPUT GROUP: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE**

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##### ***Staffing***

1. How many Full Time Equivalents are currently employed within this Agency, broken down by Output and Business Unit?
  2. How many Full Time Equivalents have resigned, retired, taken a redundancy package or have been made redundant, or terminated? Please break down these numbers by Output and Business Unit.
  3. What has happened to these positions? Has the work been reallocated to existing staff?
  4. Are there any plans to fill these positions in the near future?
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