

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.

A whole-of-government response to this question will be provided by the Chief Minister.

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

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.

The total expenditure for providing former Minister David Tollner with advice regarding defamation and the tort of injurious falsehood in 2016/2017 was \$15,689.46 inclusive of GST. The expenditure of \$15,689.46 was the legal expenses actually incurred in 2016/2017. This is the only defamation matter for a current/former Minister for this period.

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?

The work is being fulfilled within the capacity of lawyers within the department.

b. How many unfilled solicitor positions does SFNT currently have, whether they be contract, temporary or permanent?

Six positions were vacant at 31 March 2017. Two positions have been filled, four remain to be filled.

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?

No. There are not sufficient details available at this stage to make meaningful assessments.

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?

No. See above.

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?

One AGD staff member (0.5 FTE) has been allocated to provide support to the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review for a period of six months. The cost of that position is approximately \$100,000.

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?

There are two existing staff members working on the Dan Murphy's litigation file as needed. There were no counsel costs incurred to 31 March 2017.

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?

The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will review legislation as relevant and required throughout 2017.

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?

The Attorney-General referred a Draft Ministerial Code of Conduct to the Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (NTLRC) for review on 11 April 2017. The NTLRC decided that the Review of the Ministerial Code of Conduct was not within the scope of the NTLRC Constitution.

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?

A review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act* was begun in 2013 and completed under the former government. The report into that review was not approved for public release by the former Government, prior to the election in 2016.

4. Is the *Summary Offences Act* being reviewed and will it be updated in the near future?

The 'Final Report on the Review of the Summary Offence Act' was published in 2013. Under the former Government, however, the completion of an Exposure Draft Bill, and accompanying documents, namely a draft Explanatory Paper to contextualise the Exposure Draft Bill and draft Regulations to complement the Bill, were not completed.

5. What is the ongoing funding increase (or decrease) for the Legal Aid Commission for financial year 2017/18?

The Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission's (NTLAC) base funding for 2017-18 is \$6,105,000. In addition, NTLAC will receive \$626,000 for the Domestic Violence Legal Service.

For comparison, in 2016-17, NTLAC's base funding was \$5,996,000 with an additional \$614,000 for the Domestic Violence Legal Service. These figures exclude GST and include parameters as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

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?

The Department received new funding of \$2.1 million for 2017-18 and 2018-19 to continue to trial the COMMIT program. The COMMIT program is a sentence management option judges can apply to better manage an offender on a community based order.

The *Sentencing Act* was amended in 2012 to introduce two new orders (Community Custody Order and Community Based Order) which mandate participation in programs, treatment or training. The Act specifically excludes violent or sex offenders affecting the number of people eligible.

There are a number of projects related to alternative detention options being managed/explored by the Aboriginal Justice Unit.

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?

Electronic monitoring is a sentence management option. Electronic monitoring is a tool for better managing restricted movement conditions of offenders on court orders, parole or bail, or prisoners on release permits.

As stated above, the Department received new funding of \$2.1 million for 2017-18 and 2018-19 to continue to trial the COMMIT program.

Decisions relating to bail for people before the Court is at the discretion of the Judge, Community Corrections may provide assessments where requested.

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*?

People subject to a Community Based Order are members of the community and access services that are funded and provided for the community.

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?

The \$1 million recurrent funding has been provided for the Safe at Home program.

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?

The Alice Springs Safe at Home office opened to the public on 17 March 2016. Unfortunately, staffing issues required the office itself to close for a few months; however the Darwin office handled queries during this period. The office re-opened on 6 August 2016 and has been fully operational since that date. There is one full-time Safe at Home employee based in Alice Springs. There are also five volunteers who assist in providing core services to the Alice Springs community, including the 24-hour phone service.

The agreement with Victims of Crime NT (VoCNT) to provide the Safe at Home program NT-wide has an overall value of \$2.9 million (excluding GST) for the three-year period 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2019.

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?

VoCNT has been allocated \$266,200 for the financial year 2017/2018 to deliver their Core Client Services such as: 24-hour crisis support; community education and awareness; and victims' information, referral and advocacy services.

VoCNT has been allocated an additional \$1,071,400 for the financial year 2017/2018 to deliver the Safe at Home program.

In addition to this amount, the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice has approved the carry forward of a \$501,969.23 underspend from the pilot Safe at Home program funding provided to VoCNT in the financial year 2015/2016. This additional amount is to be spent by 30 June 2018.

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?

The Crime Victims Services Unit received 220 applications for financial assistance under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act* in the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017.

During that period, victims received a total of \$535,433.67 in awards of financial assistance.

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?**

The recording (e.g. collection) of information on crimes is the purview of NT Police. There have been no changes since 1 September 2016 to the processes used by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice to count, code and transform the raw data obtained from NT Police into the monthly crime statistics, nor in the methods of reporting and presenting those statistics.

- 2. Are the statistics presented on the 'Northern Territory crime statistics' website without alteration, direct reporting of statistics reported by police on offences, as has become the norm in other jurisdictions?**

The NT crime statistics are based on a consistent set of offence counting rules that have been applied to the NT Police data since the NT crime statistics were first published in 2001. The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice do not alter the data received from Police. We apply the statistical counting rules and code the location text data according to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, so that offence rates per head of population can be calculated.

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?**

No.

- 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?**

No expenses were incurred by the Department during the 2016/17 financial year or are budgeted for the 2017/18 year with respect to any concerns with the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) at the Darwin Correctional Precinct (DCP). The Builder (SBJV) is attending to defect works at the WWTP and none of these defects have affected the operations of the centre in any way. Repairs and maintenance which are necessary at DCP are assessed on a case-by-case

basis under the Public Private Partnership arrangement. The Department has funding in repairs and maintenance available for unforeseen repair requirements for assets in the Department's control.

Work and education programs are planned in accordance with standard operating requirements.

It should be noted that since commencing the services phase (operations) in November 2014, the DCP has not reached its operational capacity.

3. In financial year 2016/17, what was the average cost per prisoner, per year in the Northern Territory?

\$66,962.37.

4. In financial year 2016/17, what was the average cost per prisoner, per year at the Darwin Correctional Centre?

\$65,083.71.

5. In financial year 2016/17, what was the average cost per prisoner, per year at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre?

\$69,366.50.

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?

All offenders undergo an immediate risk and needs assessment. This includes questions around recent and chronic use of alcohol and other drugs and prompts to identify signs of withdrawal. Immediate medical needs are addressed through the prison medical service who conduct an assessment of the alleged offender within 24 hours of reception into custody.

Alleged offenders are eligible to access the Safe Sober Strong Program in remand. This is an open format rolling program that targets a range of issues commonly faced by individuals with criminogenic needs including substance use. This program provides a structure for the alleged offender to receive support, and to access referral to outside agencies.

7. How many escapes, either attempted or completed escapes from Territory correctional facilities have occurred since 1 September 2016?

From 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017, there has been:

- 1 abscond from the Alice Springs Correctional Centre Community Support Work Party;
- 4 open perimeter escapes from the ASCC cottage facility;
- 1 escape under escort from the Royal Darwin Hospital;
- 1 abscond from the Darwin Correctional Centre Community Support Work Party;
- 1 abscond from Venndale Residential Rehabilitation Centre.

As at 31 March 2017, no prisoners remained at large.

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?

The total annual budget allocated to education which is managed under the Service Level Agreement with Batchelor Institute and a program oversight within Northern Territory Correctional Services totals \$2.45 million.

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?

During 2016/17 (to 31 March 2017), 284 individual prisoners were engaged in outside paid employment and 296 individual prisoners were engaged in outside volunteer employment under the Sentenced to a Job program.

During 2015/16, there were 355 individual prisoners engaged in outside paid employment and 392 individual prisoners were engaged in outside volunteer employment under the Sentenced to a Job program.

3. How many prisoners are currently participating in the Sentenced to a Job program?

On 31 March 2017, 76 prisoners engaged in outside paid employment and 57 prisoners engaged in outside volunteer employment as part of 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?

The indicative budget for the Sentenced to a Job program in 2017-18 is \$833,000, yet to be confirmed. The budget for the Sentenced to a Job program in 2016-17 was \$824,000.

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?

VET courses are offered by Batchelor Institute and five higher education courses are offered by the University of Southern Queensland. From 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017, no programs have been cut.

Batchelor Institute currently offers: Foundation Skills (Literacy and Numeracy), Engineering, Health Support Services, Kitchen Operations, Agrifood, Visual Arts, Furniture Making, Construction, Food Processing and White Card.

University of Southern Queensland (USQ) - Making the Connection Project offers five courses: Tertiary Preparation Program, Indigenous Higher Education Pathway Program, Associate Degree in Business and Commerce, Diploma of Science, Diploma of Arts.

Correctional Industries and Employment

1. How much revenue was realised from correctional industries in financial year 2016/17?

As at 31 March 2017 Northern Territory Correctional Services has raised \$2,713,525 in revenue through Correctional Industries including internal revenue.

2. Are expansions or additions to the correctional industries programs budgeted for financial year 2017/18?

No.

3. What is the current list of active correctional industries and employment programs? Have any such programs been cut since 1 September 2017?

The following industries operate at Darwin Correctional Centre:

- Engineering
- Furniture
- Food Services
- Laundry
- Horticulture
- Female Packaging
- Bakery
- Canteen / Vending Machines
- Facility Maintenance
- Community Service Work Parties

The following industries operate at Alice Springs Correctional Centre:

- Engineering
- Furniture
- Food Services
- Laundry
- Number Plates
- Female Industries
- Construction
- Creative Arts
- Labour Supply
- Old Gaol Shop
- Bakery
- Canteen / Vending Machines
- Facility Maintenance
- Textiles
- Community Service Work Parties

No programs have been cut during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017.

OUTPUT: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

1. How much has been budgeted for offender post-release supported accommodation in the 2017/18 budget?

Subject to any parameters that may be applied to grants funding, based upon historical allocation \$447,000 will be budgeted for pre and post release supported accommodation in 2017-18.

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?

There is currently no amount budgeted within Community Corrections for alternate bail accommodations. Bail remains a responsibility of NT Police. It should be noted that Community Corrections has limited powers in relation to bailees as they have not been convicted or sentenced.

Post-release accommodation:

- Anglicare NT, Alice Springs– \$168,000 is the 2016/17 funding which expires in September 2017 – a variation to increase the number of beds provided has been approved and is being finalised.
- New service, Darwin – is proposed and pending the availability of budget a grant for the operation of this service will be advertised in August/September 2017.

OUTPUT: PAROLE BOARD

1. What is the current composition of the parole board?

Please see below the current composition of the Parole Board.

Name	Member type
Justice Stephen Southwood	Chairperson
Commissioner Mark Payne	Commissioner for Correctional Services
Detective Superintendent Col Goodsell	Police representative
Acting Superintendent Peter Kennon	Police representative
Mrs Katherine Crawley	Psychologist
Mr Paul Rysavy	Psychologist
Mrs Sue Lowry	Victims representative
Ms Susan Crane	Victims representative
Mr John Flynn	Community member
Mr Ken Middlebrook	Community member
Dr Leonard Notaras	Community member
Mr Mark McAdie	Community member
Ms Selina Holtze	Community member
Mr John Brears	Community member
Ms Patricia Jane Lloyd	Community member
Mr Harold Howard	Community member
Mr Mark Coffey	Community member
Vacant	Community member

At as 30 June 2017, one community member position remains vacant. The appointment is with the Administrator for consideration.

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?

There is no requirement for new allocation of funding to implement the *Parole Act* amendments. However, new funding of \$2.1 million for the COMMIT program will provide additional resources for individuals on parole and suspended sentences.

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?

No.

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?

Actual data for 2016/2017 Financial Year (1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017)

- For the period 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017, there were 1081 new cases commenced in NTCAT, not including reviews under the *Guardianship of Adults Act*, applications to review NTCAT decisions or applications to re-open NTCAT proceedings.
- The number of new cases commenced by jurisdiction were as follows:

Jurisdiction	New Cases
<i>Residential Tenancies Act</i>	487
<i>Small Claims Act</i>	439
<i>Guardianship of Adults Act</i>	123
<i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i>	5
<i>Planning Act</i>	6
<i>Unit Titles Act</i>	7
<i>Health Practitioners Act</i>	4
<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act</i>	2
<i>Building Act</i>	1
<i>Unit Title Schemes Act</i>	2
<i>Local Government Act</i>	1
<i>Fences Act</i>	1
<i>Superannuation Act</i>	1
<i>Pastoral Land Act</i>	1
<i>Mineral Titles Act</i>	1
TOTAL:	1081

- NTCAT's caseload is also represented by the number of matters heard, which totalled 2742, inclusive of directions hearings, compulsory conferences and reviews.

- In addition to this, there were also 887 matters heard by the Mental Health Review Tribunal. It is noted that the mental health review jurisdiction is yet to formally transfer to NTCAT under the *Mental Health and Related Services Act*; however, NTCAT already manages the administrative and quasi-judicial responsibilities of that tribunal.

Projections for 2017/2018 Financial Year

- There was a significant increase in new cases commenced in NTCAT between the first and fourth quarters of the 2016/2017 financial year particularly in the high volume jurisdictions of small claims and adult guardianship.
- Based on actual data for the 2016/2017 financial year (including the fourth quarter), it is expected that around 2000 new cases will be commenced in NTCAT in the 2017/2018 financial year.
- With this qualification, the estimated number of new cases to be commenced in NTCAT, by jurisdiction, for the 2017/2018 financial year is as follows:

Jurisdiction	New Cases
<i>Residential Tenancies Act</i>	663
<i>Small Claims Act</i>	1086
<i>Guardianship of Adults Act</i>	188
<i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i>	6
<i>Planning Act</i>	2
<i>Unit Titles Act</i>	8
<i>Health Practitioners Act</i>	4
<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act</i>	7
<i>Building Act</i>	1
<i>Unit Title Schemes Act</i>	3
<i>Local Government Act</i>	1
<i>Fences Act</i>	1
<i>Superannuation Act</i>	1
<i>Pastoral Land Act</i>	1
<i>Mineral Titles Act</i>	1
TOTAL:	1973

Funding

- Current NTCAT funding is sufficient to deal with the anticipated volume of matters projected.

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?**

There were 419 fine defaulters on the 'name and shame list' as at 31 March 2016.

There was an average of 503 fine defaulters during the period 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017.

2. What measures are being implemented to provide for increased enforcement for defaulters on the 'name and shame' list?

Regular checks are conducted on the fine defaulter data to identify new addresses. The Department of Housing and Community Development assists by confirming addresses of fine defaulters who live in public housing.

The following sanctions are imposed if appropriate:

- Suspension of driver licence
- Cessation of business with the Motor Vehicle Registry
- Property seizure orders
- Garnishee orders
- Registration of charge on land
- Community work orders
(Warrant for imprisonment can only be ordered on breach of community work orders).

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?

There is no specific allocation for enforcement measures other than the \$0.61 million that was allocated for the following new sanctions in 2015:

- Vehicle immobilisation
- Name and shame website
- Cessation of business with the MVR imposed on individuals

The Fines Recovery Unit (FRU) has collaborated with the Motor Vehicle Registry and NT Police to include details of FRU fine defaulters (who qualify for vehicle immobilisation) in the lists uploaded to the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) devices installed in Police vehicles. If the ANPRs identify an FRU fine defaulter, an email is sent to the FRU with the details and location of the vehicle. The Court bailiff is available to 'clamp' any vehicles.

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?**

Procurement of an Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) to enable the creating, tracking, progressing, storing, reviewing and closing of a case before the Courts and Tribunals was completed in December 2016.

The ICMS (Project Odyssey) will replace Courts and Tribunal functions currently provided by IJIS.

The project commenced on 6 March 2017 with a Proof-of-Concept for the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The IJIS modernisation program has an annual recurrent funding of \$2.7 million.

There are no monies allocated in the PROMIS upgrade for IJIS.

OUTPUT GROUP: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

OUTPUT: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

- 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?**

No additional funding was requested for Budget 2017/18.

- 2. How much is allocated for external counsel in the 2017/18 budget?**

The DPP does not have a separate budget for briefing external counsel. The cost of briefing external counsel is met out of the budget for legal expenses.

- 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.**

The DPP engages external counsel when:

- there are no available DPP staff to undertake the matter;

- there are no suitably experienced in-house counsel available to prosecutors the matter (e.g. complexity); or
- there is a conflict of interest.

Below is a list of external counsel engaged and costs paid for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017.

2016/17 External Counsel Cost data as at 31 March 2017	
Vendor Name	Amount
Bronwyn Haack	1,330.00
Dylan Walters	520.00
Georgia McMaster	65,417.00
Giles O'Brien-Hartcher	9,334.00
Helena Blundell	31,024.00
Hubber Coonan Legal	15,438.00
Jodi Truman	2,550.00
John Adams	9,464.00
Lesley Taylor QC	25,727.00
Murphy and Associates	77,237.00
Peter Elliott	49,986.00
Ruth Morley Legal Services	5,589.00
Tamzin Lee	7,793.00

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?

The date set for fuel retailers to comply with the 2017 amendment to the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act* is 1 November 2017.

The MyFuel website will be operational on 1 November 2017.

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?

As at 31 March 2017, the Children’s Commissioner received a total of 117 approaches of which 46 were deemed complaints. Of those complaints, 29 were indigenous, 7 were non-indigenous and 10 were unknown.

In answering this question, it is assumed that “in the care of Territory Government” means “in the care of Territory Families”.

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?

As at 31 March 2017, the Children’s Commissioner received a total of 29 approaches of which 12 were deemed complaints. Of those complaints, 8 were indigenous, 3 were non-indigenous and 1 was unknown.

OUTPUT: LICENSING NT

1. How much money has been budgeted for the Government’s Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review?

The Department of Health has provided the following response:

A specific sum has not been budgeted for the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review. All expenditure decisions relating to the Review are subject to appropriate governance oversight.

2. How many AGD staff, if any, will be seconded to take part in the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review, as represented by FTEs?

0.5 FTE (for six months).

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?

The Liquor Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 enacts the Government’s existing policy.

The Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review was announced on 7 March 2017. The Government released draft Terms of Reference on 10 March 2017, with stakeholder feedback sought and received leading to final Terms of Reference and the appointment of the Expert Panel being announced on 26 April 2017.

4. How many liquor licenses are currently under review and what is the timeline for completing those reviews?

As at 31 March 2017, one liquor licence was under review. The review is expected to be completed by end of July 2017.

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?

Nil (as at 31 March 2017).

6. What is the Licensing NT policy with regards to objections by the NTPFES to objections or proposed restrictions to licensing applications?

The Director-General of Licensing (an independent statutory officer) has responsibility for determining licensing applications pursuant to the *Liquor Act*.

The *Liquor Act* requires that the Director-General must consider amongst other things, any valid objection made to the application.

Pursuant to the Act, a member or employee of the Police Force acting in that capacity may make an objection to an application for the grant of a licence, an application for a variation of the conditions of a licence, an application for the substitution of other premises for the premises specified in the licence or an application for approval to make a material alteration to the licensed premises.

7. Is licensing NT required to accept NTPFES objections or proposed restrictions to licensing applications?

The *Liquor Act* requires that the Director-General must consider amongst other things, any valid objection made to the application.

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.

NT WorkSafe had six cases at various stages of prosecution underway for contraventions of the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act* as at 31 March 2017.

Of the six prosecution cases, three complaints were lodged, and one case was completed after 31 March 2017.

OUTPUT GROUP: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

OUTPUT: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

Staffing

1. How many Full Time Equivalents are currently employed within this Agency, broken down by Output and Business Unit?

The table below details Full Time Equivalents currently employed as at 31 March 2017, broken down by Output and Division.

OUTPUT GROUP / OUTPUT	2016-17 PAY 19
Legal Services	
Solicitor for the Northern Territory	78.87
Legal Policy	32.52
Crime Victims Services Unit	11.81
Criminal Justice Research and Statistics	4.72
Total	127.92
Correctional Services	
Custodial Services	721.34
Community Corrections	135.31
Parole Board	3.50
Total	860.15
Court and Tribunal Support Services	
Higher Courts	49.86
Lower Courts and Tribunals	94.39
Fines Recovery Unit	22.18
Integrated Justice Information System	8.00
Total	174.43
Director of Public Prosecutions	
Director of Public Prosecutions	84.88
Total	84.88
Independent Offices	
Consumer Affairs	14.32
Anti-Discrimination Commission	9.76
Information and Public Interest Disclosures Commission	4.60
Registrar-General / Public Trustee	28.00
Health and Community Services Complaints Commission	7.64
Children's Commissioner	6.50
Office of the Parliamentary Counsel	13.50
Total	84.32
Regulatory Services	
Licensing NT	69.69
NT Worksafe	57.50
Total	127.19
Corporate and Governance	
Corporate and Governance	45.55
Total	45.55
Department of the Attorney-General and Justice Total	1504.44

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.

A total of 188 employees within the Department left the Public Service during the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2017. The reason for departure is detailed in the table below. No employees were made redundant during the reporting period.

Output and Sub-output	Dismissal	Resignation	Temporary Contract Completed	Grand Total
Legal Services				
Legal Policy		2	3	5
Solicitor for the NT		5	5	10
Total		7	8	15
Correctional Services				
Community Correction	1	15	4	20
Custodial Services		59	10	69
Total	1	74	14	89
Court and Tribunal Support Services				
Integrated Justice Information System		2		2
Lower Courts and Tribunals	1	10	7	18
Fines Recovery Unit	1	4		5
Higher Courts		2	6	8
Total	2	18	13	33
Director of Public Prosecutions				
Director of Public Prosecutions	1	17	1	19
Total	1	17	1	19
Independent Offices				
Anti-Discrimination Commission		3	5	8
Children's Commissioner		4		4
Consumer Affairs		2		2
Health and Community Services Complaints Commission			2	2
Information and Public Interest Disclosures Commission		1		1
Office of the Parliamentary Counsel		2		2
Registrar-General / Public Trustee		1	1	2
Total		13	8	21
Regulatory Services				
Licensing NT		1	1	2
NT Worksafe	1	2		3
Total	1	3	1	5
Corporate and Governance				
Corporate and Governance		4	2	6
Total		4	2	6
Grand Total	5	136	47	188

Note: Data excludes casuals and board members

3. What has happened to these positions? Has the work been reallocated to existing staff?

Details of what happened to these positions and plans to fill the position in the future (Question 4) are included in the table below.

4. Are there any plans to fill these positions in the near future?

The arrangements for filling positions or placements created by the 188 employees who left the public service between 1 July 2016 and 31 March 2017 have been identified in the table below:

Output Group / Output	Total
Legal Services	15
Solicitor for the NT	10
Position filled	5
Position to be filled	2
Vacation Employment - Ceased	3
Legal Policy	4
Position filled	2
Vacation Employment - Ceased	2
Correctional Services	89
Custodial Services	70
Backfill officer on leave - ceased	4
Position filled	31
Position to be abolished	1
Position to be filled	1
Recruitment underway	22
Temporary position - ceased	8
Transferred to Territory Families	3
Community Corrections	20
Position filled	13
Position to be filled	3
Recruitment underway	1
Temporary position - ceased	3
Court and Tribunal Support Services	33
Higher Courts	8
Position filled	5
Position to be filled	1
Temporary position - ceased	2
Lower Courts and Tribunals	18
Position filled	11
Position to be filled	6
Temporary position - ceased	1
Fines Recovery Unit	5
Position filled	4
Position to be filled	1
Integrated Justice Information System	2
Position filled	2
Director of Public Prosecutions	19
Converted to Casual	1
Position filled	16
Recruitment underway	1
Vacation Employment - Ceased	1

Output Group / Output	Total
Independent Offices	21
Consumer Affairs	2
Position filled	2
Anti-Discrimination Commission	8
Position filled	3
Temporary position - ceased	3
Vacation Employment - Ceased	2
Information and Public Interest Disclosures Commission	1
Position filled	1
Registrar-General / Public Trustee	2
Position filled	1
Recruitment underway	1
Health and Community Services Complaints Commission	2
Recruitment underway	1
Vacation Employment - Ceased	1
Children's Commissioner	4
Position abolished	1
Position filled	2
Temporary position - ceased	1
Office of the Parliamentary Counsel	2
Position filled	2
Regulatory Services	5
Licensing NT	2
Position filled	1
Temporary position - ceased	1
NT Worksafe	3
Position filled	2
Temporary position - ceased	1
Corporate and Governance	6
Position abolished	1
Position filled	5
Department Total	188