

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

Annual Report – Territory Families 2016-17

1. Please provide details of the 61 young people with a youth diversion case management plan: how many of these have offended/re-offended while on the plan? How many have breached bail while on a plan? How many have entered detention since being on a plan, either on remand or sentenced?
2. Please provide details of the 62 young people diverted to a restorative justice conference: how many of these have offended/re-offended since the conference began? How many have breached bail since the conference began? How many have entered detention since the conference began, either on remand or sentenced?
3. Please provide details of the 17 young people who completed a restorative justice agreement: how many of these have offended/re-offended since the agreement was completed? How many have breached bail since the agreement was completed? How many have entered detention since the agreement was completed, either on remand or sentenced?
4. The number of pensioner and carer concession recipients in 2015-16 was 19,546, and in 2016-17 was 19,345, a reduction in recipients by 201. However, the annual report indicates a \$3m one-off budget increase for increased demand in Pensioner and Carer Concessions. Can you please provide the detail of this additional \$3m and explain this budget expenditure in light of the fact that there were fewer recipients?
5. Has an estimate been made to determine the expected number of people who will be recipients of the new NT Concession Scheme and the Seniors Recognition Scheme? If so, what is the estimate for the respective schemes?
6. What are the projected savings to the NT Concession Scheme from removing the eligibility of Territorians on the Commonwealth Low Income Health Care Card, Carer Allowance or Commonwealth Seniors Health Card?
7. The Minister for Children has committed to developing a dual pathways model “where child protection notifications not screened for investigation are referred to an NGO provider for support.” Of the 13,039 notifications

that did not proceed to investigation in 2016-17, how many of these were referred to NGOs?

8. Will government be conducting regular reviews of the non-government providers funded to provide early intervention, parenting and family support services? How often, and what performance indicators will be evaluated?
9. Please provide details of the young people who have been managed by the youth outreach and re-engagement officers: how many have been case-managed? How many of these have offended/re-offended while/since being case-managed? How many have breached bail while/since being case-managed? How many have entered detention while/since being case-managed, either on remand or sentenced?
10. Of the 39 new Youth Outreach Workers who began their roles in May, how many have since separated, either through retirement, resignation or termination?
11. Will government be conducting regular reviews of the non-government providers funded to provide domestic, family and sexual violence services? How often, and what performance indicators will be evaluated?
12. While the number of aboriginal children in care has continued to increase over several years, the proportion placed with Aboriginal carers was reported as lower in 2016-17 than it has been at least over the past 5 years. How can Government account for this reduction, and what strategies will be employed to ensure that Aboriginal children are placed with Aboriginal carers?
13. Can you please explain the discrepancy between the foster care and kinship care numbers provided in the graph on page 27 of the Annual Report and those discussed under the heading of *Foster and kinship care* on page 28? Which, if either, are the correct figures, and will the Annual Report be updated to rectify the error?
14. Can you please explain why the number of children in purchased home-based care has increased while those in kinship care has decreased? What strategies will Government employ to reverse this trend?
15. As part of its plan to transition out-of-home care to the non-government sector, will Government be conducting regular reviews of the non-government providers funded to provide these services? How often, and what performance indicators will be evaluated?
16. "In 2016-17, Territory Families explored how other jurisdictions design and operate alternatives to detention." Can you please provide details of which jurisdictions were explored, which alternative programs were considered, and how the successful approach was determined within the context of the Northern Territory?

17. Given the high profile of some subjects relating to senior Territorians, why has the Minister's Advisory Council for Senior Territorians met only once throughout the year? How many meetings are planned for next year?
18. How does Government account for an increase in complaints referred by the Children's Commissioner from 41 to 60? Please provide the detail of the subject of these complaints, and their resolutions.
19. Please detail the 32 recommendations provided to Territory Families by the Children's Commissioner. Which have been accepted, and which have been actioned?
20. How does the Government account for the increase in work health and safety incidents reported from 88 to 111, especially those related to mental factors, which have increased from 10 to 24. What strategies does Government plan to address work health and safety among Territory Families staff?

Annual Report – Youth Justice Advisory Report

1. The Chair of the Committee noted that the functions of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee have been constrained by the resignation of members due to the change in departments overseeing Youth Justice, and by committee member's workloads impacting on their family lives and abilities to attend meetings. Unfortunately, this resulted in a lack of meetings by the advisory committee for over six months in 2017, in contravention to section 211 of the *Youth Justice Act*.

In light of the upcoming review of the *Act*, and the recent recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, the advisory committee will be expected to undertake important work in these areas. What measures will Government be putting in place to better support the members of the advisory committee to ensure quorums are met and meetings can be held as appropriate?

2. The committee has identified that there is a potential advantage in using electronic monitoring as a less intrusive means to conduct surveillance when compared to other means such as routine police checks [for youths]. At the publication of this report, police had not issued any electronic monitoring devices to youths. Why not? Have any been issued since?
3. On their visit to the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre, why weren't the Youth Justice Advisory Committees given a tour of the Visits Centre, the High Security Unit (HSU) and the school?
4. On 16 November 2016, members of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee inspected the Loves Creek Outstation, at the time being managed by the BushMob program. Members were impressed by the 'structured program model that involved the skill development of the young people, that not only

included work ready skills, but gaining life skills', and described it as 'similar to the sentenced to a job program'. Will Government be implementing any programs for youth which include a work skills or training component? If so, please provide details. If not, why not?
