

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Children:

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

Note 1:

The following questions **do not require reference to the 2018-19 Budget** to be answered. They can be answered from existing Agency data.

Note 2:

If there is to be a Whole of Government response to any of the questions, it would be appreciated that these are referred early to the Minister responsible to enable a response within the same timeframe as the remainder of the questions.

Further, early indication of the questions referred for a Whole of Government response would be appreciated.

BUDGET

1. What efficiency dividend has each Department and Agency been asked to achieve in framing the 2018-19 Budget? When was this direction given and what specific instructions were provided to achieve this result?

STAFFING

2. Please provide details for the following staffing questions as at 30 June 2017 and as at 31 March 2018:
 - a) How many staff were employed in the following categories:
 - i. Full time equivalent
 - ii. Permanent part time contract
 - iii. Contract
 - b) Please advise the number of staff identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in terms of FTE and as a percentage of the Agency total employment (all classifications).

- c) Please advise the number of frontline staff as FTE and as a percentage of the Agency total employment (all classifications).
- 3. What is the variance in FTE from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018?
- 4. Please advise, in each category:
 - a) The total number of staff on contracts (by executive and temporary employment contracts) as at 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018
 - b) By position, the levels at which staff are employed on executive or temporary employment contracts as at 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018
 - c) By position, when each current contract is due to be renewed
- 5. For the full financial year ending 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018 how many staff:
 - a) Resigned
 - b) Were demoted as a result of job evaluation or re-evaluation
 - c) Were made redundant
 - d) Were terminated
- 6. How many staff were unattached or categorized as redeployees for the full financial year ending 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018?
- 7. How many staff were categorized as supernumerary for the full financial year ending 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018?
- 8. How many staff have been engaged through employment agency arrangements, for what purpose, for what duration and at what cost for the full financial year ending 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018?
- 9. How many locums have been employed, for what purpose, what duration and at what cost for the full financial year ending 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018?
- 10. How many positions had Special Measures applied when advertised for the full financial year ending 30 June 2017 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018?

11. How many positions that had Special Measures applied, as referred to in question 10 above, had to be re-advertised due to the initial process not securing suitable candidates?
12. Please advise the number of staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as at 30 June 2017 and the increase in staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander since 1 July 2017.
13. How many grievances have arisen as a direct result of the Special Measures program since 1 July 2017? Of these, how many remain unresolved?

OUTSOURCING

14. For the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018, detail any decision(s) to outsource, contract out or privatise functions that have traditionally been carried out by the Agency. Is consideration being given to outsource, contract-out or privatise in financial year 2018-19? If so, please provide details.

LEGAL EXPENSES

15. What has been the expenditure on legal advice or related expenses for the financial year 2017-18? Provide details on:
 - a) The matter(s) (designate which ones are finalised and which ones are ongoing)
 - b) The amount paid by matter
 - c) The amount paid to each outside legal firm or barrister engaged

PROCUREMENT / CONSULTANCIES

16. For the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018, please detail expenditure on each report and consultancy (excluding annual reports) that has been obtained from outside the NTPS. For each report/consultancy detail:
 - a) Purpose
 - b) Cost
 - c) Person or entity engaged
 - d) Whether the person or entity has their principal place of business in the Northern Territory or elsewhere (if elsewhere,

please provide the address of the principal place of business of the person or entity)

- e) Whether a report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly as a result of the report or consultancy
 - f) Outcomes or key performance indicators for the report or consultancy
 - g) Whether tenders or expressions of interest were invited prior to work on the report or consultancy being undertaken
17. Please detail expenditure paid, or expected to be paid, to Hawker Britton and/or associated entities for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018. Please outline the tasks performed.
18. How many contracts and tenders have been awarded to business entities with their principal place of business in the Northern Territory so far, and what works have been undertaken?
19. How many contracts have been awarded to business entities with a principal place of business outside the Northern Territory for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018? Please detail the work being undertaken by each business entity and the selection criteria for the successful business entity on the applicable contract or tender.
20. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many public quotations were undertaken during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018?
21. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many contracts or tenders were awarded without undertaking a public quotation process during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018?
22. For each instance identified above in question 21, where a public quotation process was not undertaken, including for Certificates of Exemption:
- a) What is the description of the goods and services contracted?
 - b) What is the value of the goods and services contracted?
 - c) What was the reason for not using the public quotation process or for requiring a Certificate of Exemption?
 - d) Who recommended the course of action in c) above?
 - e) Who approved the course of action in c) above?

23. Please advise the total number of NTG Corporate Credit Cards within the Agency, including the position titles and levels of the staff holding the corporate credit cards for the purchase of goods and/or services as at 31 March 2018.

FOCUS GROUPS / POLLING / SURVEYS

24. Please detail expenditure during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018 on opinion polls and focus groups, including costs and entities that conducted the work.

25. Please provide copies of the surveys identified in question 24 above and detail all surveys undertaken, their form, the cost and what inducements were provided to incentivise participation during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

26. Please detail expenditure on advertising and communications during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.

For each advertisement for which an expense was incurred:

- a) What was the purpose / description of the advertisement?
- b) Who was the advertisement placed with, i.e. media outlet, newspaper, television station or similar?
- c) What was the total production cost, including, but not limited to, design, commissions, placement costs?
- d) Were tenders or expressions of interest called? If not, why not?

TRAVEL

27. Please provide the total expenditure and itemised details of travel, including, but not limited to travel-related costs such as accommodation, travel allowance, entertainment, car rental, meals and incidentals, in each Agency and authority for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018 broken down to:

- a) International travel
- b) Interstate travel
- c) Intrastate travel

28. In the case of international travel identified in response to question 27 above, please provide the purpose, itinerary, persons and costs involved in each trip.

29. Please provide itemised details and itemisation of costs of all travel undertaken by the Minister that was paid for by the Agency or authority, including travel on charters during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.

HOSPITALITY / FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

30. Please provide full details of all public service hospitality provided for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.

In relation to each occasion on which official hospitality was undertaken:

- a) What was the purpose of the hospitality?
- b) How many guests attended?
- c) How many Ministers attended?
- d) How many Ministerial staff attended?
- e) How many MLAs attended?
- f) How many public sector employees attended?
- g) What was the total cost incurred?

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

31. Please detail expenditure on grants and donations paid by your Agency (including the recipient of each grant) during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.

32. Please detail the funds used to distribute awards and sponsorships in the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018. Indicate which awards and sponsorships were managed by Regional Offices. What is anticipated for the 2018-19 financial year?

33. Please detail the amounts paid on grants to non-Government organisations for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018, including to which organisation and the services to be provided?

MEDIA MONITORING SERVICES

34. Please provide expenditure details on media monitoring services for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018 (including entities engaged and who uses the service).

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

35. What are the details, by project, of re-voted capital works in all Department and Government Authorities for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018?
36. How many projects have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted to Infrastructure Australia to be considered for the Infrastructure Priority List?
37. Please provide details of newly committed projects for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.
38. Please provide details of contracts awarded to interstate firms, for what purpose, the cost and why a Territory firm was not chosen.

GOVERNMENT LEASED BUILDINGS

39. What is the total annual power bill of each Government building owned/leased/used by each Department for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018?
40. What is the total annual leased space of each Government building used by each Agency/authority and at what cost for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018?
41. How much Government owned or leased premises or office space is currently underused (at less than 100 per cent occupied) or vacant?

FEES AND CHARGES

42. Please detail the statutory or legislative fees and charges levied by your Agency/authority, the revenue raised in the 2017-18 financial year and whether any of these fees and charges was increased following the passage of the 2017-18 financial year budget.

INTERNAL AUDITS

43. How many internal audits and financial investigations were conducted in the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018?
44. What were the terms of reference or focus for each investigation?
45. Please provide details of any fraud, anomalies, breaches of financial legislation or Northern Territory Government policy and procedures exposed by the audits and financial investigations.

BOARDS / ADVISORY BODIES

46. Please detail all boards and advisory bodies in your Agency in 2017-18, also providing the following information:
- a) The Terms of Reference
 - b) The current members and when they were appointed
 - c) The total remuneration paid to each Board member during the 2017-18 financial year
 - d) The itemised total cost incurred by the Board during the 2017-18 financial year
 - e) The number of times the Board met during the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018

REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

47. Details of all reviews and inquiries completed or commenced during the 2017-18 financial year, also providing the following information:
- a) The Terms of Reference
 - b) The criteria for selection of all panel members
 - c) The composition, qualifications and state or territory of residence of the persons undertaking the review/inquiry
 - d) The cost of the review/inquiry
 - e) How the information was/is accumulated to contribute to the review/inquiry
 - f) If completed, when, the outcome and whether the report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly
 - g) If not completed, when this is expected

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

48. Please provide the number, nature and cost of reportable safety issues for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.
49. Please detail the number of stress related matters and claims for the period beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 31 March 2018.

REGIONAL OFFICES

50. Please detail expenditure on staff located in regional offices across the Territory. Include the number of staff, their functions and outcomes achieved in the 2017-18 financial year. What are the locations for which they are responsible?

Answer:

- 1-45. The Chief Minister will answer Written Questions 1-45 in relation to the Department of the Chief Minister.
46. Early Childhood Development Expert Reference Panel
- a) See **Attachment A** for Terms of Reference.
- b) Members:
- Ms Donna Ah Chee
 - Professor Kerry Arabena
 - Professor Fiona Arney
 - Dr Paul Bauert OAM
 - Dr John Boffa
 - Ms Maree Bredhauer
 - Ms Olga Havnen
 - Ms Tanja Hirvonen
 - Ms Jayne Lloyd
 - Professor Frank Oberklaid OAM
 - Mr David Pugh
 - Professor Sven Silburn
 - Ms Christine Tayler
 - Professor Collette Tayler (deceased)

- c) Nil remuneration.
- d) The total cost of Early Childhood Development Expert Reference Panel during the 2017-18 financial year was \$10 210.
- e) The Early Childhood Development Expert Reference Panel has met twice between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018 (8 August 2017 and 7 December 2017), noting the majority of the work was undertaken in 2016-17.

47-50. The Chief Minister will answer Written Questions 47-50 in relation to the Department of the Chief Minister.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXPERT REFERENCE PANEL

Terms of Reference

2016

Revised 22 February 2017

Terms of Reference

The primary functions of the Early Childhood Development Plan Expert Reference Panel (the Expert Reference Panel) are to:

- a) provide expert advice relating to early childhood development relevant to the Northern Territory, in particular early Aboriginal and Torres Strait children's development; and
- b) oversee the work of the Early Childhood Development Plan Working Group (the Working Group) in their development of the Early Childhood Development Plan (the Plan).

Objectives

The objectives of the Expert Reference Panel are to:

- provide expert advice to the Minister for Children, the Childrens Sub-Committee of Cabinet, the Children and Families Standing Committee of Coord and the Working Group with a view to improving Northern Territory children's development over the long-term.
- provide a forum for ideas and discussion on early childhood development issues and opportunities relevant to the Northern Territory.
- oversee the development of the Plan ensuring that:
 - appropriate Territory wide programs are balanced by place based solutions and are at the heart of the plan
 - the plan is developed from collaboration, partnerships and co-design
 - all elements of the plan are practical and attainable within the Northern Territory
 - all programs, services and systems within the plan have a process and methodology and can be implemented, monitored and evaluated
 - the plan can segue into other related plans, for example: the Child and Adolescent Health Plan, the Youth Participation Framework, the Child and Family Wellbeing Framework etc.

Membership

There are 14 members of the Advisory Panel.

The members will determine who will hold the position of Chair at the first Expert Reference Panel meeting.

Members are at a senior level within their organisation.

Members are experts who specialise in one or more of the following: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood development; early childhood education; early childhood health, social and emotional wellbeing; or child protection. Members of the Expert Reference Panel are:

- Donna Ah Chee
- Professor Kerry Arabena
- Professor Fiona Arney
- Dr Paul Bauert
- Dr John Boffa
- Maree Bredhauer
- Olga Havnen
- Tanja Hirvonen
- Jayne Lloyd
- Professor Frank Oberklaid
- David Pugh
- Professor Sven Silburn
- Christine Tayler

- Professor Collette Tayler (deceased)

Members are appointed for a six-month period and are expected to remain in place for the duration of their appointment.

The Children's Sub-Committee of Cabinet is responsible for endorsing the appointment of members to the Expert Reference Panel.

Establishment and Duration

The Expert Reference Panel is established by the Children's Sub-Committee of Cabinet.

The Expert Reference Panel will continue until the Early Childhood Development Plan has been endorsed for implementation and public release, which is anticipated to be within six months after the Expert Reference Panel's first meeting.

Meetings

The Expert Reference Panel will convene for a minimum of three bi-monthly meetings commencing February 2017. It is preferred that all members attend in person the first meeting and that all meetings thereafter are either face-to-face in Darwin or via tele/video link or a mix.

It is anticipated that members will be invited to attend in person the launch of the Early Childhood Development Plan at a date to be identified.

Regular communication will be ongoing between the above dates through appropriate channels be it email, face-to-face or via tele/video link.

Resources

Secretariat support is provided by DCM.