

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

Child Protection

1. On page 18 of the *Safe, Thriving and Connected* plan it states that “Territory Families....is developing a child safety and wellbeing framework”. When will this child safety and well-being framework be developed?

ANSWER:

The Child Safety and Wellbeing Framework (the Framework) is an important element of Territory Families’ work to reform family support in the Northern Territory. Territory Families is working with the sector and our partners to develop the Framework, which will articulate the Northern Territory Government’s approach to preventing child abuse and neglect. Consultation will be undertaken on the Framework in the second half of 2018.

2. Between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018, how many persons have been prosecuted for failure to notify under s.26 of the Care and Protection of Children Act?

ANSWER:

Territory Families does not record or collect data on prosecutions. This information is not recorded in the Territory Families client management system. Northern Territory Police have responsibility for investigation of offences and reporting of crime data.

3. How many children have been removed from family care from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018? Please break down by location?

ANSWER:

Case Work Unit	2017-18 To 31 March
Greater Darwin Region	107
Northern Region	87
TF East Arnhem	1
TF Katherine	47
TF Northern Remote Service Centre	39
Southern Region	43
TF Alice Springs	38
TF Barkly	5
Total*	237

*This number will differ from the number of children entering into care due to reporting methodologies to align reporting at the national level.

4. When will your productivity study into child services expenditure be completed?

ANSWER:

The Productivity Commission Study was recommended by the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

Discussions are underway between the Northern Territory and Australian governments regarding the potential scope of the recommended Productivity Commission Study.

It is understood that Productivity Commission reviews are formally commissioned by the Commonwealth Treasurer and the timing is determined by the Productivity Commission in consultation with the Treasurer.

5. On page 33 of the Safe, Thriving and Connected plan it states “the Northern Territory Government is developing a Mandatory Reporter Guide to support professionals in making a report to the Central Intake Team”. When will the mandatory reporter guide be completed and disseminated?

ANSWER:

It is anticipated that the Mandatory Reporter Guide will be available in September 2018.

6. How many meetings has the Children sub-committee of Cabinet had?

ANSWER:

There have been 12 meetings of the Children sub-committee of Cabinet since the sub-committee's inception.

7. When will the first tripartite forum convene?

ANSWER:

The inaugural meeting of the Children and Families Tripartite Forum was held on 23 July 2018 in Alice Springs.
