

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr. Higgins to the Treasurer

**Budget Repair**

1. Would you please advise the percentage of public service staff on Executive Contracts who have not agreed to have their contracts varied for three years in accordance with your announced pay freeze?
2. Would you please confirm that politicians will have their pay frozen for only one year i.e. 2020 and not three in accordance with the written advice from the Independent Remuneration Tribunal dated 14 April 2019?
3. Given the answers to questions 1 and 2 what will be the shortfall in savings in your announcement to save \$25 million?

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**ANSWER:**

1. Around 42 per cent of total executive contract officers in the Northern Territory Public Sector have not signed the pay freeze.
2. The Remuneration Tribunal conducts a yearly Inquiry into the salary and entitlements of members of the Legislative Assembly at the request of the Administrator of the Northern Territory.

Although its 2019 Inquiry is not yet complete, on 14 April 2019, the Chairperson of the Remuneration Tribunal wrote to the Chief Minister advising that the Tribunal will look favorably to not increasing the basic salary of members during its 2019 Inquiry, which means there will not be an increase in Members' salary until at least 2021.

3. The savings resulting from the pay freeze are not expected to materially vary from the existing estimate, however may be achieved over a longer period. The extent of the timing variation will be influenced by the level of natural attrition. There is an average annual turnover rate of executive contract officers of around 19 per cent and this is expected to assist in achieving the required savings.