

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Gunner to the Minister for Education:

**Department of Education and Children's Services, Grants and
Funding for Non-Government and External Organisations**

- 1. Would you please advise what grant, program, project and operational funding was provided by the former Department of Education and Training to non-government and external organisations in the year prior to 24 August 2012.**

Prior to 24 August 2012, the Department of Education and Training had a grants Budget of \$286.9 million dollars as published in the 2012-13 Budget paper No. 3. This grants budget provided funding a wide range of organisations including:

- non-government schools;
- school councils for NT Government schools;
- child care subsidies to registered child care services;
- peak education and early childhood organisations; and
- tertiary education providers.

- 2. Would you please advise what grant, program, project and operational funding will be provided by the Department of Education and Children's Services to non-government and external organisations in the year following the 4 December 2012 Mini-budget.**

As a result of the new Government initiatives and Mini-Budget variations, the Department of Education was renamed as the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS). The Revised Grant budget for the agency was \$266.8 million dollars.

3. Would you please advise which service or funding agreements currently or previously administered by the Department of Education and Children's Services have been, or will be affected as the result of:

i. machinery of government changes, or the creation of new departments or agencies since 24 August 2012;

As a result of the agency restructure, the Early Years function was transferred to the Office of Children and Families (OCF). This transfer included a Grants Budget of \$5.4 million. This Budget was predominantly for the payment of the NT Childcare Subsidy. These Grants will continue to be paid by OCF with no change in policy or value.

ii. the implementation of measures contained in the 4 December 2012 Mini-budget.

Specific reductions to grant programs in the Mini-Budget for the 2012-13 financial year are:

- \$6.2 million from a strategic revision of Australian Government funded programs carried forward from the 2011-12 financial year. These programs will now be acquitted in house from existing DECS resources.
- \$2 million conversion of the Charles Darwin University waterfront fit-out grant to a loan.

In addition to these budget variations, DECS had adjusted funding between categories of expense to transfer surplus grants Budget to fund teacher salaries at the required level. This transfer was an administrative adjustment to match Budget with agency requirements and was not a result of any Mini-Budget decisions.

4. Would you please outline the specific changes, amendments and monetary adjustments to service or funding agreements between the Department of Education and Children's Services and non-government and external organisations referred to in question 3 above.

In most cases, funding agreements had not been established for the budgeted grant expenditure and renegotiations of agreements have not been required where internal DECS resources are now being utilised to deliver services.

In the case of the Charles Darwin University waterfront agreement, new agreements have been negotiated and are now being drawn up to reflect the revised treatment as an interest-free loan.

5. Would you please advise what grant, program, project and operational funding provided by the Department of Education and Children's Services to non-government and external organisations will be adjusted or diverted, and by how much, as the result of the implementation of measures contained in the Northern Territory Mini-budget on 4 December 2012.

Overall, the Mini-Budget process diverted \$14.5 million from the department's 2012-13 published budget from all categories of cost. Much of this Budget has been diverted internally for the following initiatives:

- \$3.3 million to increase back to school payments
 - \$5.8 million to increase repairs and maintenance programs in schools
 - \$2.3 million to assist schools with rising utility rates.
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