

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Youth Diversion Programs

Section 39 (2) of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* provides four options for a police officer to consider instead of charging a youth with an offence. One of the options is referring the youth to a diversion program.

1. What are the diversion programs police are aware of so that they can consider referring a youth too? Where are they located?

Northern Territory Police (NTPF) are required to assess youth for diversion eligibility in accordance with Section 39 of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* ("the Act"). S39 (3) and S40, If determined eligible, the matter is referred to a diversion service provider.

On referral, the provider will attend to the youth and their family and determine the most appropriate diversion program to address the youth's needs.

Diversion service providers and their programs are contract managed by Territory Families (TF). Questions in regards to the specific programs, and their respective location, should be directed to TF.

2. How is information about the diversion programs communicated to police?

The service provider provides a weekly case management update to NTPF.

Upon finalisation of the diversion program the provider sends a finalization report to NTPF. If police are satisfied that the conditions of diversion have been met, the matter will be finalised.

3. Are Youth Diversion officers located in NT Police Stations? If so, which ones?

Youth Diversion members are located in Nightcliff, Katherine and Alice Springs Police Stations and frequently travel to regional and remote areas of the NT to facilitate youth diversion assessments, as required.