

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Corrections:

Correctional Industries

1. Could you provide details of all industries and work projects currently being undertaken by the Alice Springs division of Correctional Industries, under the department of NT Correctional Services.

Answer:

The Department of Correctional Services (NTDCS) is sensitive to the economic environment of the local Alice Springs community; however, the aim of the Northern Territory Correctional Industries (NTCI) is to reduce the cost of operating correctional facilities through revenue raising and becoming partially self-sufficient. This is a major investment by NTDCS and will free up the NT Government to redirect funding to community invested programs.

NTDCS has maintained an open and transparent environment concerning the NTCI and the Sentenced to a Job program. There has been small business information sessions conducted by NTCI through the Chamber of Commerce's Business at Sunset functions. Advertisements have been placed in the NT News and the Centralian Advocate calling for interest in private sector partnership.

The external work projects currently undertaken by the Alice Springs Correctional Centre correctional industries are as follows:

B & S Home Timber and Hardware	Manufacture and supply of engineered timber roof trusses (under licence with Pryda Australia)	Ongoing project
Centre Landscaping Supplies	Manufacture of concrete products including large range of various colours / sizes of pavers, headstones, sundries (tree rings / kerbing)	Ongoing project
Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Services	Provide laundry services since July 2013	Ongoing project
Alice Springs	Provide laundry services	Ongoing project

Police Watch House	since 2009	
Double Tree Hilton (Alice Springs)	Design and manufacture of new laser etched acrylic signage	Ongoing project
The Street Machine Summer Nationals (January 2016 in Canberra)	Research and designs for coffee mugs	This project will be completed in January 2016
The Butterfly Connection (local charity)	Provide promotional products and products for charitable events	Ongoing project
Salvation Army	Contract to recycle and remove the clothing and to bag the buttons, cutting up of clothes, washing, weighing and compressing to produce 10kg bags of mechanical rags	Ongoing project
ASCC recycling	Recycling items from ASCC, community donations and clean out of Government buildings	Ongoing project
Desert Dogs Food Truck	Supply approximately 150 hot dog rolls each Friday from the ASCC Bakery	Ongoing project
Hardy Fencing	Manufacture fencing products and assist in projects as required	Ongoing project
Centre Landscaping Supplies	Manufacture and supply products as required e.g. plasma art, fire drums, furniture. Manufactured daybed and catalogue products by NTCI Furniture Division	Ongoing project
Women Hall of Fame	Manufacture and supply furniture as required e.g. plasma art and furniture	Project still in development phase. Ongoing project for 2016
Centre Trailer Hire	Manufacture and supply box trailers	Ongoing project
Taps, Tubs, Tiles	Supply sink brackets as required	Ongoing project
Central Land Council	Construct and supply stock equipment	Ongoing project
Haasts Bluff Station (NT)	Stock equipment as required	Ongoing project

Tanami Station (NT)	Stock equipment as required	Ongoing project
Mt Riddock Station (NT)	Stock equipment as required	Ongoing project
Troy Coe Camel Company (SA)	Supply stock equipment as required	Ongoing project
Ngaanyatjarra Council (NT/SA/WA)	Stock equipment as required	Ongoing project
Land Mark	Supply stock equipment (MOU)	Ongoing project
Territory Rural	Supply stock equipment (MOU)	Ongoing project
Territory Stock Feed	Supply stock equipment (MOU)	Ongoing project
McDonald Shire	Construction of grand stands and tables	Ongoing project
JJ Richards	Quoted on construction of skip bins	Waiting on clients response to quote
Beantree Café	20 chairs and 5 tables (NTCI furniture division)	Ongoing project
Territory Housing	Refurbished two houses which included building and fitting joinery for kitchen and laundry cupboards	Ongoing project
Territory Lettuce	ASCC provides Bok Choy to Territory Lettuce to sell onto Coles, Woolworths and IGA Supermarket Group	Ongoing project
Rockmelon and watermelon production	In trial phase for internal supply	Ongoing project
Lemon grass production	In trial phase for internal supply	Ongoing project
Sweet potato and white potato production	In trial phase for internal supply	Ongoing project
240 citrus trees	Second year orchard for internal supply	Ongoing project

2. Please provide details on the nature of the industries and work, the precise nature of the goods and services produced, the customers of these services and products and the income generated by the sale of the goods and services these Correctional Industries generate.

Answer:

Financial Year	Industries Revenue
2015 – 2016 YTD	\$ 609,303.72

Details of the nature of the businesses are as outlined in the above table.

3. Please provide the rationale for Correctional Industries providing these good and services.

Answer:

The rationale for NTCI providing these goods and services is to establish robust practical skill development opportunities for prisoners to successfully reintegrate back in the community. The NT has the highest recidivism rate in Australia; this needs to be addressed by providing positive employment skills that can be translated back into the community. The industry sector in other jurisdictions is well established and accepted by the community as producers of high quality items by prisoners.

Prisoners in the NT are provided with the opportunity to develop skills through real life service provision e.g. growing vegetables, producing furniture, building cattle yards and learning all aspects of the production from start to finish. The NT Skilled Occupation Priority List determines which skills would be most needed in the community and translates into building viable partnerships with employers in those areas.

NTDCS also aim to facilitate a level of self-sufficiency by the correctional centres by growing their own food, supplying products from the ASCC bakery, repairing clothing and producing bedding, daily building maintenance, refurbish correctional infrastructure, fleet maintenance, construct fencing, provide meals to Barkly Work Camp and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre amongst other tasks. This will assist with reducing the expenditure of operating correctional facilities in the long term.

4. Please provide the assessment and analysis used to identify that these Correctional Industries are not and will not compete with the business in the open market.

Answer:

The Correctional Industries Advisory Council (CIAC) of NT is an integral part of NTCI. The Council comprises of peak employer bodies, Unions NT, training organisations, the Department of Business, Chamber of Commerce and community representatives. CIAC has the responsibility to monitor the development and operation of Correctional Industry programs to ensure that they function prudently and sensitively in parallel with private sector businesses.

The role of CIAC ensures that NTCI do not adversely impact upon local businesses and in particular community employment. The business opportunities that CIAC have supported are related to import replacement, new opportunities and opportunities where there was a shortage of skilled labour.

The NT Industries Capability Network is also consulted when a potential work project is being considered to ascertain whether particular products are being produced locally or from where they are currently sourced.