

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 13 June 2019

Subject: Aboriginal Interpreters

From: Leader of the Opposition, Mr Gary Higgins MLA

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development,
the Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA

Agency: Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development

Number: 5-13

Question: How many additional Aboriginal interpreters do we expect to get for the additional \$1 million, and how much has been paid by other agencies for using the interpreter service?

Answer: Costs for interpreting services is based on hours of interpreting provided, and does not easily equate to numbers of actual interpreters.

During the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019, a total of 217 interpreters completed 25 700 hours of interpreting services. This is compared to a total of 199 interpreters completing 22 771 hours of interpreting for the same period in 2017-18.

There were 11 522 hours of interpreting services provided to Northern Territory Government agencies, equating to total fees of \$628 857 GST excl (including 884 hours for Remote Housing activities at total fees of \$49 020) with payments received via various funding sources, including Ledger Transfer Funds, internal agency budget and Australian Government grant funding. This is compared to 10 383 hours of interpreting services provided to Northern Territory Government agencies, equating to total fees of \$564 569 (including 170 hours for Remote Housing activities at total fees of \$7434) for the same period in 2017-18.

It should be noted that there was also 14 178 hours of interpreting services provided to other Australian Government/state government, non-government and private sector clients equating to total fees of \$789 119 GST excl. This is compared to 12 389 hours of interpreting service provided to other Australian Government/state government, non-government and private sector clients equating to total fees of \$642 560 for the same period in 2017-18.