

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families:

Youth Justice

Minister, please advise on the details of:

1. The number of young people in detention in the NT as of 30th of June 2021? And what was the number on the 30th of June 2020?
 - On 30 June 2020, there were 17 young people in youth detention in the Northern Territory.
 - On 30 June 2021, there were 46 young people in youth detention.
2. What does it cost daily to hold a young person in detention?
 - The Report on Government Services – Youth Justice, released in January 2021, reflects that the average cost per day, per young person subject to detention-based supervision was \$4,600.
 - Youth detention expenditure reflects the significant investment in intensive wraparound programs and supports focused on addressing the offending behaviour of young people in detention.
3. How many youth justice facilities operate in Aboriginal communities or on Aboriginal country?
 - There are only two youth justice facilities operational in the Northern Territory, the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre based in Darwin and the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre.
4. How many diversionary programs run in the Electorate of Mulka?
 - There are two diversionary programs run in the Electorate of Mulka.

5. Which organisations run these programs and are the programs run in Yolngu Matha in a culturally appropriate way?
- The East Arnhem Regional Council is funded to provide the Community Youth Diversion Program in the Electorate of Mulka. The Program reflects the needs, values and beliefs of the person's local community and demonstrates cultural competence.
 - Elders and stakeholders for the young person (including family) may participate in activities relevant to the Program.
 - The Back on Track Program is delivered in Nhulunbuy by the Australian Childhood Foundation and Anglicare NT. The Program is delivered in alignment with the Territory Families Cultural Security Framework and is connected to a number of local community services, including Aboriginal led programs, which ensures culturally appropriate services and access to supports in language are available as needed.
6. How are communities being supported to create local solutions in the area of youth justice?

Multi Agency Community and Child Safety Teams

- Multi Agency Community and Child Safety Teams (MACCST) were formed in response to two Coronial Inquests held in September and October 2020 that examined the deaths of three young women by suicide and three young people from volatile substance misuse.
- The Inquests found that multiple services were working with the same children and families, but were not collaborating or sharing information to develop cohesive multi-agency responses.
- The Northern Territory Coroner recommended that MACCST are legislated. Amendments to the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007* are being progressed for this to occur.
- MACCST are locally led decision making forums that deliver timely, coordinated, action based, early intervention responses to respond to the safety of children, families and communities.
- Since September 2020, MACCST have become operational in 18 communities. Teams will continue to be established across the Northern Territory.
- To date, 12 Shared Care Plans have been developed to deliver a multi-Agency response to children and families who, in comparison to others in their community, are at significantly higher risk of harm to themselves and/or others.

- To date, two Community Safety Response Plans have been developed to address locally thematic issues affecting a group of children in the community and wider community safety.

Youth Justice Programs

- The Back on Track Program operates in urban areas of Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy. Program providers in all regions work collaboratively with local based services, organisations and families for the development of programs that support young people who are at risk of, or are engaged in the youth justice system.
- Local Decision Making (LDM) and direct negotiations with community nominated providers was undertaken to enter into grant agreements for formal Youth Diversion. In urban centres and locations where LDM did not result in community consensus, a competitive round was utilised.