

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence:

**Funding for Domestic Violence Programs**

Following on from Answers to Written Questions 330 provided in April 2022:

**1. For the allocation of the \$1m for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Community and Place Based Partnerships Grants, who was on the “expert committee” that “assessed” these grants?**

**a) What organisations, businesses or bodies did these “experts” represent or are employed by?**

The selection panel comprised of:

- Manager, Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities;
- Acting Senior Project Manager, Government Employee Housing Reform and Implementation, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities; and
- Manager, Social Work, Allied Health, Royal Darwin Hospital, Department of Health.

Two of the three panel members are Aboriginal. The panel was provided with additional advice and information from the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities’ Elder in Residence, and the Deputy Director, Aboriginal Justice Unit (AJU), Department of the Attorney-General and Justice.

**b) Were these “experts” independent from Government?**

As per a).

**c) What are the organisations that these “experts” are employed by or represent or receive Northern Territory Government funding?**

As per a).

**d) What process was used to decide the allocations of these grants?**

The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Partnership Grants Guidelines (available to all applicants and interested parties) outline the purpose and assessment criteria for the grant.

The grant was made available publicly through GrantsNT from 10 February 2022 until 7 April 2022. The assessment panel assessed the applications against the grant eligibility criteria laid out in the grant guidelines and in accordance with Northern Territory Government procurement process that included conflict of interest considerations and individual reviews of each application by panel members.

The aim of the program was to fund partnership projects that contribute to:

- enhanced collaboration between Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and specialist DFSV services;
- innovative, place based and community-led initiatives to better respond to and reduce DFSV;
- building capability of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to respond to and prevent DFSV; and
- building capability of specialist DFSV services and workforce to deliver culturally safe and culturally competent services.

**e) What weight was given to funding existing programs that have already proven to be successful?**

The guidelines and assessment process were designed for the one-off nature of the funding and the aims of the program.

Eligible applicants were organisations that are based and registered in the Northern Territory.

Applications needed to demonstrate a partnership between an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation and a specialist DFSV service in the Northern Territory.

The assessment criteria were based on;

- the project plan;
- alignment to program aims;
- project sustainability;
- organisational capacity; and
- budget.

In addition, the panel considered the following:

- projects that benefit and take place in remote communities will be prioritised;
- equitable spread of projects funded across regional and remote, settings; and
- value for money.

**f) How many applications were received for this round of funding**

Eleven.

**2. The allocation of the \$2.05m for Remote Infrastructure Grants in May 2022, what was the process used to allocate these grants?**

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities funded domestic and family violence (DFV) safe house services with a substantial remote clientele, were provided the opportunity to request infrastructure and amenities upgrades including repairing gates, changing locks, removing unwanted trees, upgrading kitchens and bathrooms, replacing flooring in a food storage container, external painting and building a children's sensory playground.

The scope of the funding approved by the Northern Territory Government was for upgrades to remote non-government organisation safe houses, as well as DFV services with a substantial remote client base.

The DFV services already receiving substantial funding for infrastructure were not invited to access this funding. Darwin Indigenous Men's Service, auspice by Darwin Aboriginal Islander Women's Shelter (DAIWS), was invited to submit a proposal due to their substantial remote client base.

Requests were reviewed by regional contract managers and endorsed by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Families, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, for the Chief Executive Officer's approval. Requests totaled \$1.7 million. The remaining funds were approved to ameliorate the Partnerships Grant funding.

**a) Please provide a breakdown of organisations that received funding through these grants and how much each organisation received.**

- Miyalk Domestic and Family Violence Shelter (Crisis Accommodation Gove) - \$68,073;
- One Tree Community Services (Wadeye Safe House) - \$110,686;
- Galiwin'ku Women's Space - \$141,205;
- West Arnhem Regional Council (Gunbalanya Safe House) - \$43,655;
- Mabunji Aboriginal Corporation (Borroloola Safe House) - \$25,429;
- CatholicCare NT (Milikapiti Safe House) - \$149,387;
- CatholicCare NT (Naiyu Safe House) - \$63,573;
- Women's Safety Services of Central Australia - \$566,875;
- Barkly Regional Council (Ali Curung and Elliot Safe Houses) - \$56,675;
- Tennant Creek Women's Refuge - \$178,722;
- YWCA - \$100,000; and
- DAIWS (Darwin Indigenous Men's Service) - \$197,114.

**b) Who was on the panel that presided over the allocation of these grants?**

A Project Control Group, convened by the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities' Deputy Chief Executive Officer Families, was established to manage the allocations that included the Department's Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, as well as the Contract Managers and Executive Directors of each region.

Advice was also provided from finance and facilities teams from the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

## **What was the role of Government in this process?**

Government led this process.

### **3. What is the role of the Cross Agency Working Group for Violence Against Women?**

The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) oversees the implementation of the Northern Territory's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Framework 2018-2028: Safe, Respected and Free from Violence and its action plans.

#### **a) What does this group do?**

The CAWG drives collaboration, engagement, information sharing and problem resolution and comprises representation from government agencies, DFSV and legal networks from across the Northern Territory, and peak bodies.

#### **b) What role does the Government have in this group?**

The Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction convenes and is secretariat for the CAWG. Government agencies each have a representative on the CAWG (as provided below at (d)).

#### **c) Does this group receive Northern Territory Government funding? If so, how much?**

Funding is provided for non-government organisation representatives to travel to attend meetings face-to-face when required.

There is no other funding provided to the group.

#### **d) What organisations and individuals are members of this group?**

- Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities;
- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory;
- Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network;
- Darwin Domestic and Family Violence Network;
- Department of the Attorney-General and Justice;
- Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet;

- Department of Education;
- Department of Health;
- Katherine Local Reference Group;
- Northern Territory Correctional Services;
- Northern Territory Council of Social Service;
- Northern Territory Legal Assistance Forum;
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services;
- Tennant Creek Local Reference Group; and
- Top End Remote Safe House Network.

Information about the CAWG, including meeting communiques and membership, is publicly available online at <https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/domestic,-family-and-sexual-violence-reduction/domestic-and-family-violence-reduction-strategy>

- e) For the “non-Government operated domestic and violence Safe Houses who had not already received infrastructure funding” who received infrastructure grant funding referred to in Answer 2 in Written Questions 330, who was involved in deciding the allocation of these grants?**

This information is provided in answers to question 2 above.

- f) What process was used to decide the allocations of these grants?**

This information is provided in answers to question 2 above.

- g) How many applications were received for this round of funding?**

Twelve.