

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

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Date: 18 June 2024

From: Member for Katherine

To: Minister Ah Kit

Portfolio: Youth, Seniors and Equality

Agency: Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

Subject: Darwin Community Legal Service - Elder Abuse Reports

QUESTION:

How many reports does Darwin Community Legal Service receive on elder abuse?

Of the reports of elder abuse, can they be broken down into the following categories:

- neglect;
- financial coercion; and
- physical abuse.

ANSWER:

Calls to the National Elder Abuse phone line were historically received by Darwin Community Legal Services. It is no longer funded to deliver this service.

National Elder Abuse calls are now re-directed to the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities Central Intake Team.

From 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024, a total of 23 calls were received. Of these:

- 13 raised concerns for financial abuse;
- 3 raised concerns for physical abuse; and
- 1 raised concern for neglect.

These are all classified as the primary harm type. A call may have raised concerns for one or more harm types.

An additional 6 calls received were classified as Other. These were calls seeking advice or raising concerns not related to harm or the harm types named above.

The Central Intake Team makes onward referrals to Northern Territory Police or community-based providers, including the Darwin Community Legal Service as required.