

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing:

Youth Detention

- 1. How many children and young people are currently detained in Don Dale and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centres?**

ANSWER

As at 31 March 2022, there are currently:

- 36 young people detained in the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre; and
- 18 young people detained in the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre.

- 2. What is the current capacity for each of these facilities?**

ANSWER

The scalable operations model of Don Dale Youth Detention Centre and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre respond to the needs of young people and staff and enables the agency to most effectively manage staff numbers, bed numbers and room configurations.

- 3. For 2020, 2021 and 2022, how many children aged 10, 11, 12, and 13 have been held in detention and for how many days? By age group, please provide the percentage of these children who were being held on remand.**

ANSWER

A response for this question is resource intensive for the public service to answer during this time of Budget preparation. This question can be asked at the Budget Estimates Committee Hearings.

- 4. During the last 12 months, please identify the communities that detainees have come from and the number of detainees from those communities.**

ANSWER

A response for this question is resource intensive for the public service to answer during this time of Budget preparation. This question can be asked at the Budget Estimates Committee Hearings.

- 5. During the past 12 months, please identify for each month the number of young people held in remand and the average length of time young people were held in remand?**

ANSWER

A response for this question is resource intensive for the public service to answer during this time of Budget preparation. This question can be asked at the Budget Estimates Committee Hearings.

- 6. During the past 12 months, please provide the number of detainees that were held in remand and then continue to be detained according to sentencing.**

ANSWER

A response for this question is resource intensive for the public service to answer during this time of Budget preparation. This question can be asked at the Budget Estimates Committee Hearings.

- 7. What therapeutic model has been proposed for the new youth justice model of care?**

ANSWER

The Department has committed to developing a Model of Care for Youth Justice Centres in the NT, as well as an accompanying Implementation Plan and Evaluation Framework, in collaboration with stakeholders. These efforts are part of a reform agenda to improve the youth justice system in response to the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT.

The development of this model compliments the work already underway for the development of the new youth justice centre in Darwin and the redevelopment of the existing centre in Alice Springs.

- 8. Is this model available for public consultation?**

ANSWER

Formal consultation commenced in late 2021 and will continue to occur throughout early-mid 2022.

Consultation will consist of interviews, focus groups and workshops with the following groups:

- Young people and their families
- Community leaders and representatives
- Youth Justice Centre operational staff
- NT Government agencies
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Youth justice academics and other experts.

- 9. When will the Alice Springs and Don Dale new facilities be open?**

ANSWER

Construction on both facilities has commenced. The Alice Springs facility is expected to open in 2022, and the Darwin facility in 2023.

- 10. How many detainees will these facilities hold?**

ANSWER

The new, contemporary Darwin Youth Justice Centre will be certified to 45 young people. The Alice Springs Youth Justice Centre redevelopment works are expected to more than triple the existing facility size.

11. In line with the Royal Commission recommendations (25.21) where have Bail support services with small home-like residential accommodation been developed or planned for?

ANSWER

Youth justice accommodation has been established in Darwin and Alice Springs to support young people aged 10 -17 years to comply with their bail conditions.

12. In remote regions what alternatives to youth detention are currently being funded or created by Government?

ANSWER

Back on Track is an alternative sentencing program expended across seven contractors and five regions for the delivery of the Back on Track program.