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Youth Justice – Don Dale Compensation

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Are you concerned the payout awarded yesterday to four Don Dale detainees for mental suffering caused by restraint will set a precedent for other action taken by juveniles in detention? Will your government appeal this decision? Will the money awarded to these four offenders be used to compensate their victims?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the Northern Territory Government was taken to court; we were the defendant in the court case. We fought this case in the courtroom. The court has made a decision which we need to abide by. I have to be a little careful about what I say because the case is still before the courts today; it was adjourned yesterday because the question of costs is still to be decided.

The financial implications are still unknown. There is still information we are waiting for. An ability to make a decision on appeal has to be made after the case has finished. There are two other cases before the courts right now as well. I have to be careful about what I say because of the two cases that are before the courts.

I can be very clear that the Territory government will defend itself, and it will fight for Territory taxpayers in the courtroom, which we have done and will continue to do. We have to abide by the decision of the court. There is still an outstanding decision, the question of costs, which is to be decided by the court.

Within the bounds of what I am allowed to say at the moment because of the ongoing court cases, I can say the Territory government defends itself in court, we will fight for taxpayers in court and we do not want to have to go to court and pay all these lawyers' fees. There are better ways to use Territory taxpayers' money, but that is the situation as it stands.

Youth Justice – Dylan Voller Bail Conditions

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE

Yesterday I asked if Dylan Voller, who is currently on bail and not allowed to drink alcohol, was tested for alcohol following his stay in the four-and-a-half-star Crown Plaza Resort. You refused to answer the question. You have had 24 hours now to track an answer down. I repeat the question; was Dylan Voller tested for drugs or alcohol after being seen in Lasseters Casino?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I disagree with the essence of the assertion she made in her question. As the Deputy Opposition Leader would know considering her background, breaching bail conditions can result in Mr Voller being returned to prison. I outlined yesterday, and I will outline again to the House, the conditions Mr Voller has on his bail conditions. I must note that he had his parole refused, but Mr Voller took it to the courts to have a different approach and they gave him bail.

Mr Voller's conditions of bail are that he must accept supervision and report to a probation and parole officer; he must participate in employment, training or voluntary activities; he must not associate or visit any person or place identified by his probation and parole officer; as the member has pointed out, he must not purchase, possess or consume alcohol; he must submit to random breath testing and analysis; he must not consume a dangerous drug or abuse a prescribed substance; and he must participate in assessment counselling treatment as directed by his probation and parole officer.

It is not appropriate for me to comment specifically on what is taking place with Mr Voller's bail. That would be best for his bail police, if they felt that he was breaching any bail conditions. His bail conditions are monitored by police and correctional officers.

In relation to the matters the member has raised, I have been advised to date there is no breach of bail that has been identified by Territory authorities. I can assure the member opposite that the hard-working police force and correctional officers will continue to monitor this specific case and anyone on bail. They will be watched. Last week in parliament this government passed legislation on urgency to give police another tool to ensure they can monitor people on police bail.

I thank the member for her concern in this case. Police and corrections officers are monitoring, and to date there has been no breach of bail.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION
Youth Justice – Dylan Voller Bail Conditions

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE

Was Mr Voller drug or alcohol tested so they could ascertain whether there was a breach of bail?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, every allegation is investigated by a hard-working police and corrections officer. If they have reason to, they will investigate the matter. Mr Voller's bail condition is that he must not purchase, possess or consume alcohol. He must submit to random breath testing. I have faith in the hard-working police force and corrections officers that they are investigating and using the powers under the bail that has been issued, if there is reason to investigate.

Rio Tinto Alcan

Mr GUYULA to CHIEF MINISTER

Can you report on any discussions your department is having with Rio Tinto Alcan about the end of mining on Gove Peninsula, and in regard to the future of Nhulunbuy town?

ANSWER

I catch up with Rio regularly to talk about what is happening on the peninsula and its mining operations. There has been a lot of debate about the future of Gove during the last term. Towards the end of the last term the establishment of DEAL, Developing East Arnhem Land, which was done between the government and the CLP, has provided a good model that we are still regularly talking to them about.

I was recently in Nhulunbuy, towards the end of last year, for the opening of physio services that had established and expanded themselves as a result of support from government and DEAL, which have increased services available in Nhulunbuy. That is a good outcome. It shows good community work.

I am in regular conversations with the company. It has assured me it will have good regular public conversations with the community, which I always ask of it. It is always important to discuss that. The company has committed to it, and will be talking with the community on a regular basis about what is happening with the mine site in Nhulunbuy, so there is as much confidence within the community as there can be within the current circumstances.

We will continue to work with the local community. I will be in East Arnhem Land soon to talk to them myself. We need to have good, regular conversations with the people of Nhulunbuy township about the impacts of this, as well as the Nhulunbuy electorate at large. The DEAL process has been a good one. I will continue to talk to Rio, and Rio will continue to talk with the local community. The lines of communication are open between all parties. Rio will be very happy to catch up with you, Member for Nhulunbuy, if that has not happened already. Rio will be happy to talk to you and brief you on what is happening with the mine site.

Crime and Housing Issues in Araluen

Mrs LAMBLEY to MINISTER for HOUSING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The number one problem reported to me by my constituents in Araluen is crime. The second most concerning issue reported to me is the problems they experience with Department of Housing tenants in their neighbourhood, such as noise, fighting, rubbish, overcrowding, et cetera. What will you do about this?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, it was great to meet with the Member for Araluen in Alice Springs and talk for well over an hour about her concerns, accept her letter and provide the follow-up for her and her constituents.

There is no doubt that there are enormous challenges in public housing across the Northern Territory. They do not just relate to ageing infrastructure and the other challenges of providing a better housing mix, for which this Labor government has embarked on implementing new strategies and policies.

Regarding the antisocial behaviour you are concerned about, I share your concerns. We have some important systems in place. One of the Labor government initiatives was the Public Housing Safety Officers. I have travelled with those officers on patrol, as has the Member for Karama. I welcome the opportunity to provide you an experience there also, Member for Araluén. It is amazing to get on the front line and understand the situation. I also recommend that you do the Friday night shift after 7 pm to get a better understanding.

It is not only about working with the Public Housing Safety Officers; it is also about working with police, so there is a very good interface. I saw that, and I am sure the Member for Karama experienced it as well. The red card policy—the policy developed by the previous administration in the Northern Territory—is also at the disposal of the department to try to improve the situation and ensure accountability. That is another part of the suite of measures we use.

I find it interesting that the challenge of dealing with visitors is a recurring theme. Tenants and workers provided this information. In response to your letter to the Chief Minister, of which I received a copy, you will be aware that the Public Housing Safety Officers conducted audits in your electorate. They walked the streets, talked to non-public housing residents and gathered information about what we can do.

There is no easy answer to this, but it is something the government is focused on and working on. The bigger picture is the urban housing strategy of looking at improving the model with a better housing mix, with the incorporation of non-government organisations—the community housing model. We are doing a lot of work. You are most welcome to further briefings. I look forward to visiting your electorate again and learning more about how these challenges can be resolved.

Procurement Policy – Update

Mr MILLS to CHIEF MINISTER

I again seek an update on your government's commitment to beefing up the local procurement policy by establishing a more explicit monitoring and policing role to ensure local policy implementation. This will be the third similar question, and I hope this time I will hear evidence of progress. There have been a number of reports of local agencies being overlooked for interstate suppliers. One example is the printing of the Bombing of Darwin book in another state; the other is a recent NT Police procurement of tracking technology being purchased out of the Territory, without even seeking NT tenders. How are the meetings and positive talks with industry going?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we want to ensure that as much government spending goes local as possible. There is a \$3bn spend by government each year. We have done a number of things to try to maximise the amount of spend that goes local. There will be an independent industry advocate who will monitor how we do that. We are very close to getting that office established. We are working closely with the industry sectors. We have met with the SA version of that industry advocate. It is not as easy as taking the SA version, unfortunately, because they have different policies. We have to make it fit the NT system.

I guarantee that we will have the independent industry advocate. We are close to getting the details sorted. I am happy to have you briefed on how the conversations are going. I cannot give you a date today. As soon as I have a date I will go public and scream it from the rooftops, Member for Blain.

We are working on it, and it is something I place a priority on. I have had many conversations with Owen Pike, Brian Gallagher and others about this issue. We want to get this right. It is important because we have put in place a number of reforms to buy local, from the most recent change about value for money to value for the Territory, to the local content weighting across all contracts and the stopping of shortlisting on price alone.

We want to work better on the post-tender feedback people get. It is not always good. There is a lot of work to be done in that space; it will not be fixed overnight. There will be a lot of work done on how people get briefed post-tender. All the work in this space will be better once we have the independent industry

advocate in place. Acknowledging your strong interest in this, I am happy to make sure you are informed and involved, Member for Blain.

I cannot give you the date yet. As soon as I have a date I will be public about it and the details.

Planning Commissioner and Planning Reform

Mr WOOD to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS

Presently we do not have a planning commissioner and have been without one for some time. Could you say if the government has appointed a new planning commissioner, and are you looking at reviewing the structure of the commission and changes to the *Planning Act* to accommodate any changes that might come from that review?

ANSWER

Yes, we advertised nationally for a new planning commissioner, and also advertised for expressions of interest to sit on the Planning Commission. That process is about to go to the interview stage; it is ongoing at the moment. I am hoping to have it finalised very soon.

I have no immediate plans to change the structure of the Planning Commission; however, we will have a discussion paper regarding planning reform to look at how to make planning more transparent, accountable and easier for people to understand. Once you are presented with a document in planning speak it is a nightmare to get through. You can see why people who genuinely want to have a say in the planning system can be quite off-put from the first correspondence they may receive, or when they go online to get through all the planning speak. It is an extensive body of work.

As part of that, one of my intentions is to ask a question about looking at reforms for assessments and zoning. There is legislation before the House regarding whether or not the Planning Commission is the right body for it to sit with, or whether it should be the DCA. It will be a broad-ranging discussion about how we can improve the system, make it more transparent and make it easier for people to understand and become engaged with planning processes to have a greater say. It is timely we do this. I look forward to getting that body of work out soon.

If there are any questions you feel need to be asked about the planning commissioner or other aspects, I am more than happy to sit with you and see how it can be incorporated, Member for Nelson. We all contend with planning issues within every electorate, even bush communities. It is important to get planning right. It is an area that sparks passion and debate when people see changes in their neighbourhood.

I would like everyone's feedback as part of the process of looking at how we can improve the system. People have a lot of passion in this area. We went to the election saying we would look at the principles regarding planning and the New South Wales ICAC. Our target is to make things more transparent, open and inclusive when it comes to planning because it can be contentious to say the least.

Palmerston Police Station Progress and Budget

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to CHIEF MINISTER

Your government has announced that construction will begin on the first half of the Palmerston police station in the fourth quarter of 2017. What site has been chosen for the new police station, and will it be built on Crown land or private land? If it is to be built on private land, how much will the government be paying to purchase or lease the land? Is the purchase cost part of the \$15m budget?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we have the design tender for the Palmerston police station. I can say to the people of Palmerston that fast-tracked work is happening. People in Palmerston want the same quality and level of service as the people of Darwin. Palmerston is a family-friendly city. We want to invest in Palmerston. There is good news about the design tender and the action happening on the Palmerston police station.

On the question of the land and which block it will go on, that is something we are working on now. We will reach a determination on that very soon. As I said before the election and have mentioned since coming to government, we need the site to be chosen based on advice from police, who do a lot of work on location

and response times, amongst other things. They are looking at a couple of sites, and we will have details on the site soon, as well as the implications of choosing that site.

I am happy to give that information to the people of Palmerston as soon as we have made that decision. We are working through the process now, but we are investing in that police station this year. It is part of our fast-tracked works. The design tender has gone out. I thank the Members for Brennan and Drysdale for their strong advocacy on this police station, and their support for us to fast-track it. They do a great job talking to the people of Palmerston.

We will invest in Palmerston as a family-friendly city. It is not a mini-Darwin; it is a place in its own right and we will treat it as such. We love Palmerston. We have confidence in it. There are great people there and they will be getting a fast-tracked police station from our party. The Member for Spillett lives in Palmerston; great people live there. We will invest there. That is a guarantee from us. The design tender has gone out, and we will give other details very soon.

Youth Corrections

Mr HIGGINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE

In Saturday's *NT News* there was a large photo of you and Dylan Voller. Given the current community concern about crime, and Mr Voller's celebrity criminal status, do you believe posing smiling with him displayed good judgment as a community representative and as a Cabinet minister?

Madam SPEAKER: Opposition Leader, your question may be deemed out of order because it does not go to any of the minister's portfolios, unless you can rephrase the question to be applicable to Housing and Community Development. The Chief Minister can speak on public affairs; you might like to direct it to him.

Ms FYLES: A point of order, Madam Speaker! The question seeks an opinion. Also, the Chief Minister answered the previous question.

Mr HIGGINS: I pose the question to the Attorney-General.

ANSWER

Opposition Leader, you have raised a serious point. I understand the minister was, to use a modern day term, photobombed. We all respect that crime and community safety is paramount. We inherited a youth detention and justice system in crisis. Before the election the Chief Minister took on responsibility for the consequences of when Labor was previously in government. We never saw that from the previous CLP Chief Minister.

It is the government's job to take on that responsibility and rebuild the youth corrections system. Young people who do the wrong thing should understand the consequences of their behaviour and be provided with a rehabilitative approach forward. We have outlined strong plans and will await the interim report from the Royal Commission, which we expect in a couple of weeks.

The other point I want to make is in relation to long-term generational change. This government is committed to the young people of the Northern Territory—future generations. We are committed to turning around the cycle of disadvantage which impacts so greatly on the community. We see that through crime and antisocial behaviour. We will address these issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who is also the Minister for Children, sits in the Cabinet subcommittee so we can look at our plans through the prism of children. We have strong plans to engage with women when they are pregnant; we will provide them with support so children can be born healthier. Then we will set them on a positive pathway through the Nurse-Family Partnership programs and Families as First Teachers. These are significant programs that are evidence-based and have been trialled in the Northern Territory. We are now rolling them out so more Territory kids can access the best start in life.

Madam Speaker, we have provided an explanation of what took place last week, and we took responsibility for youth justice and detention in the Northern Territory. We have strong plans to ensure we give all young people the best opportunities.

Treaty Policy

Mr GUYULA to MINISTER for ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

In relation to your government's treaty policy, what does 'local authorities' mean? For example, what powers will local authorities give to First Nations people to self-govern?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Member for Nhulunbuy. The process we are taking with treaty is a bit slower than that. That question is jumping ahead. We support the debate about treaty and support a treaty, but we want to hear from people what their versions of treaty are. There are a significant number of people who have differences of opinion about what should or should not be in a treaty.

We will have that conversation, which will lead to a decision on what you are asking about. We will go through a consultative process for what would or would not be in a treaty, and learn how they are taking this approach in other places. There is conversation about whether there should be a Territory-wide treaty or work on a more regional basis with particular groups. It might be that treaty takes on different forms in different parts of the Territory.

It is something we have to work through. We will have the subcommittee of Cabinet to make it very serious, elevate it and have a strong conversation about what is in or out of the treaty. For me, it falls into a bundle of issues that are important for recognition and advancement of issues, such as Aboriginal justice agreements and strengthening local decision-making. There is a natural logic to get the local decision-making agenda into the treaty agenda. If you get the local decision-making settings right and trust the decisions locals make, which may take the form of an MOU or other types of agreements with locals, then there is a natural platform, potentially, into a strong treaty situation.

There is a lot to work to do in this area. I note and pay respect to the fact that there are a number of people with differences of opinion about what this means. The mistake I do not want to make is to stand in parliament, as the Chief Minister, and dictate this to people locally. We have to make sure we get this right from the ground up by listening and taking on what people are saying. Then we will act. There will be a series of processes we will have to work through to get there. This has to be in the hands of the people, where there is clear trust established about what it means and entails.

It has to embody the recognition of local people and have a practical outcome on how we deliver better services, have more trust and have better decision-making for locals so they have greater control over their lives. That is the meaningful outcome we all want. That is the process we have to work through. We have to take people with us along that journey. We have to do it from a position of initially listening and saying, 'We agree on treaty. Let us talk about the details and how to get it right'. We should not rush it. I do not sit here as Chief Minister in Darwin dictating the state of affairs.

Housing – Vacant Housing in Alice Springs

Mrs LAMBLEY to MINISTER for HOUSING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There have been up to 100 empty department of Housing residences vacant in Alice Springs over the years. Many of these become derelict and vandalised. Exactly how many are vacant in Alice Springs at the moment, and what is your plan for these homes?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I share the Member for Araluen's concerns, just as we are bringing on stock in Tennant Creek that has been offline. I will have to be honest with you, Member for Araluen, there was a significant increase in stock offline under the previous administration. There were significant cuts in the public housing sector. At one stage there were eight three-bedroom houses in Tennant Creek sitting vacant and vulnerable within the community. I repeatedly raised that point.

More importantly, what are we doing about it? That is a very good question. First of all, Member for Araluen, you would be aware of the government's \$22m stimulus package, which is a very proactive and jobs-focused policy to get work happening across the Territory. Part of that is a \$5m stimulus into urban housing. This will be of great benefit. We have already seen considerable registration and work started.

Not all of that stock can be brought back online. Some of that stock is ageing beyond economic repair. We are looking at the urban housing strategy to look at new ways of doing business with old age stock. The housing sector we are seeking opportunities with is the community housing sector. We are looking to deliver a better housing mix and better land use. The old traditional 600m² or 800m² block with public housing in the middle of it should be seriously looked at in terms of better land use, innovation around design and starting to address the waiting lists in the NT.

We are looking at other alternatives in Alice Springs. There are a number of non-government organisations interested in partnering up. The government literally has a Crown asset it can lever off of, and the community housing sector is interested in our plans. The most recent announcement was when I was down there with the Member for Araluen and we handed over the complex on Bloomfield. That was to Anglicare. It had a great history with the block next door. It settled a lot of the antisocial behaviour and did a lot of work regarding housing domestic violence victims.

It was just up the road on Bloomfield Street, and that block complimented its operations. There are various elements of our housing policy. There are sales as well. Some of this beyond economic repair stuff—we are interested in the private market to look at who would be interested in buying that stock. That stock then is developed in the private sector and generates an income to fund our urban housing strategy. There is a lot to talk about.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Barkly, your time has expired.

Homelessness in Darwin

Mr WOOD to CHIEF MINISTER

Last night I was having dinner at Salvatores at the end of the mall when I was approached by an Aboriginal man and his wife. He shared my pizza, and I asked him where he was from. He said Kununurra and that he could not get home and did not know anyone in Darwin. He was not the only one around. There were people everywhere sleeping in shopfronts, parks and just over the road from parliament. Chief Minister, what is the government doing to address the problem of homeless people in Darwin, as it seems whatever you are doing is not making a difference.

ANSWER

The place you went to for dinner last night is a good establishment, a great place to have dinner. They do a good coffee. We want people to be able to enjoy their night out in town. It is good for them, they have a great time, and it is good for the business servicing them. Government has done a number of things in this space, and we want to do more, which is very much part of the vibrant CBD agenda. The Member for Port Darwin has been very strong with this, as both assistant minister and the local member.

We have a precinct that has been established in the CBD where banning notices can be used. Depending on the circumstance, police have the power to ban someone from the area, which I have raised with police this week in response to some of the issues businesses have raised. We have had repeated problems from the same person about the implementation of those banning notices and how the precinct works, which is very important. It is an answer to that repeated visitor problem.

There is also an issue about returning to country, or the Larrakia Nation connect program. The CLP made a change to that program in which you had to pay 30% up front. That had a significant impact on how many people were accessing the program. We accept the majority of people pay it back, but there are some people who do not. We thought the 30% up front decision by the CLP, which stopped people from accessing the program altogether, defeated its intention.

We would rather a lot of people use the program and have a small element of non-payment at the other end than have very few people access the program. We have changed how that works, and we are working with Larrakia Nation on that program being put in place so people are able to go home. There has been a significant change to the number of people going home. The problems you are speaking about are in the context of us helping them get home, having made that change after coming to government.

We will keep working on that program to make sure more people are returning to country. It is critical. I understand the intention of the program. In some respects I see where the CLP was coming from; it was

worried about the payment issue, but I feel it defeated the intention of the program, which was about getting people back to country.

Sometimes the reason they get stuck here—this is not your example because you gave the Kununurra example—is due to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme, where sometimes the return trip that has been organised is immediately after the person has been let out of the hospital. They are given no time to spend in town to do a bit of shopping, get a few essentials sorted, pay some bills or whatever it happens to be.

We are working with Health on being more practical about when PATS flights are organised, which is another important thing we can do to try to get people home. We recognise the problem, and we are doing work in this space to improve how it works.

Domestic Violence Services Funding

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to MINISTER for TERRITORY FAMILIES

The Safety is Everyone's Right Strategy was announced by the Country Liberal government in 2014 with initial funding of \$18m. In the 2016-17 budget an additional \$6.77m was allocated to funding the third year of the program. This includes funding to providers such as the Women's Legal Services Australia, which delivers frontline services to victims of domestic violence. Will the Gunner Labor government provide increased funding to frontline domestic violence service providers in the upcoming 2017-18 budget?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am surprised she would draw attention to the fact that the previous government allocated that money but did not allocate ongoing funding for any of the domestic violence programs it put in place. That is extraordinary. Yet again the domestic violence sector was left with short-term funding and short-term contracts which put the whole program at risk.

We have been working very hard to see what long-term sustainable funding of the domestic violence sector looks like because, quite frankly, this is a sector that cannot continue with the piecemeal approach that happened over the last four years. There was an increase in funding over the last four years, and we are looking at the good work happening because of that.

We also need to look at the evaluation of those projects, which was not done in a timely way under the previous government. At the moment that is what we are doing; we are working very closely with the Treasury and the Cabinet on how this fits into our budget. I cannot believe we are in a position, yet again, in which we are scrambling for funding for vital domestic violence services that are about women and children's safety. We will continue to do this work.

Fracking

Mr HIGGINS to MINISTER for ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL RESOURCES

The Chief Minister told the AM ABC program that he will decide whether or not to allow fracking after the \$3m review. The current Member for Namatjira indicated during the election campaign that the annual conference of the Labor Party would make the decision. Minister, who will make the decision on whether or not to allow fracking; will it be the Chief Minister, Cabinet, Caucus or the annual conference of the Labor Party, which I believe is to be held next weekend?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. We all know where the opposition sit on this issue, but we went to the election with a very clear commitment to Territorians that we would have a moratorium on fracking. We discussed that with industry and Territorians. One of the very first things the Chief Minister did was announce the moratorium on fracking, which is still in place.

There are very accomplished people leading the scientific independent panel into hydraulic fracturing. It is great you asked this question today because they are in the middle of their community consultations, traveling across the Northern Territory to regional centres. They have been to Darwin, the rural area, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. They will be going to smaller communities throughout the whole of the Northern Territory to have community meetings and hearings with people who wish to put in submissions.

This is about creating certainty for Territorians and proponents. We want to make sure we understand the true potential impacts of this industry in the Northern Territory. We went to the election saying we would have a moratorium on fracking. That is what we have delivered. We will wait for the report from the independent scientific panel. It has put out about seven community updates. I encourage the opposition to sign up for those updates because they are very informative. They have been coming out thick and fast. They will keep the opposition updated on the good work of the panel.

The panel is headed by Justice Pepper. She has a fantastic background in the New South Wales court of environment. She is a very capable panel head. Each panel member has a fantastic environmental background. We have faith they will deliver a report that will provide us with the information we need to make a decision in due course. We have not pre-empted an outcome of this. We are waiting to hear from that accomplished panel.

Mr HIGGINS: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing order 110: relevance. The minister has not answered the question. The question was who will make the decision?

Ms MOSS: Madam Speaker, I was in the process of answering that question. I am fairly sure I did answer it. We are waiting for a report from the independent panel, and then we will make a decision as Cabinet. We have stated this multiple times.

Crime Rates and Statistics

Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER

The Northern Territory Police released its crime statistics on Friday of last week. Comparing December/January of last year to December/January of this year, crime has significantly increased across the Northern Territory, except in Nhulunbuy, which represents 3% of the population. Ninety-seven per cent of the population has been subjected to the highest rates of crime we have seen for many years. Why is this so? Why has crime gone through the roof under your watch?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Member for Araluen. I feel the frustration and anger of Territorians. We had a bad December and January. Territorians have a right to feel safe at home and work. Police are doing a magnificent job of attacking this problem and bringing it down.

We have been very proactive, as a government, in making sure police get certainty. In December we gave police certainty about their numbers, and a four-year recruitment plan. I have spoken with police about what extra powers they need to do their jobs. Last week we gave them the power, at police bail, to apply electronic monitoring bracelets. We know this will be a powerful tool to change behaviour and reduce repeat offending. We have to make sure we are doing what we can to intervene into the crime cycle.

At the last election we inherited a broken youth justice system. A clear part of the election campaign was that youth justice in the Northern Territory had broken down, and things were escalating. That is why we have taken urgent action to fix the youth justice system. We have made significant changes to what we are doing in youth justice.

I pay credit to the staff at Territory Families, police, corrections and the Attorney-General's office. We have made these significant policy changes and taken action while there has been a Royal Commission in the Northern Territory. A significant number of public servants and agencies have been cooperating with the Royal Commission. I applaud their efforts and the work they have done to ensure we are cooperating with the Royal Commission into youth justice, while taking action at the same time to fix the problems of the broken youth justice system.

There has been a trend over the last two years—a 20% increase in breach of bail of youth offenders. This is not a new problem. It was clearly identified during the election campaign that we had a broken youth justice system. This is why we are taking steps to fix it. Territorians deserve to feel safe at home and at work. We will do everything we can to break that cycle, to invest in early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation.

That was a policy process the CLP walked away from after the election in 2012. There was a clear roadmap laid out by the former Leader of the Opposition that the CLP chose to walk away from. Over four

years of chaos we saw this problem escalate and escalate. We were elected to fix this, and we are fixing it. We are ensuring we break the cycle and address the problems of a broken youth justice system.

Palmerston Hospital Public Inquiry

Mr WOOD to TREASURER

Yesterday the *NT News* wrote about the Auditor-General's report regarding Palmerston hospital, which highlighted problems related to tenders and probity. Will the government ask the Public Accounts Committee to hold a public inquiry into the matters raised?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, by all means, when it comes to the Palmerston hospital project I welcome scrutiny. If the Public Accounts Committee would like to sit down with the department to look at any issues, they are most welcome. They had a long and extensive hearing yesterday in which they sat down with the chief executives of two departments, one being Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, which is my department, and the other was the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

We welcome scrutiny. We can provide any further information the Public Accounts Committee would like in regard to the issue of procurement matters from the Auditor-General's report. That is not a problem if that is where the Public Accounts Committee would like to go. It is important to have a high level of transparency and scrutiny with government expenditure. They are most welcome to ask those questions.

Procurement - Tracking Devices on Vehicles

Mr MILLS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question still relates to local procurement. At the tail end of the last question there was something I thought you would respond to, but it really needs to be addressed. That is, it is good that we are inching closer to an announcement, but regarding the NT Police procurement of goods and services outside the Northern Territory, why have the Northern Territory Police procured interstate without asking a local tenderer? It is for tracking devices, I understand. Rather than wait until this new body is established, Chief Minister, could you ask the commissioner today, and then I will ask you a question tomorrow?

Mr GUNNER: What was the last sentence?

Mr MILLS: If you can ask the Police Commissioner this question today, I will ask you tomorrow why they went interstate and did not ask locally for the procurement of these goods and services.

Mr GUNNER: So you are giving notice of a question tomorrow. Can I clarify exactly which devices you are talking about?

Mr MILLS: There were tracking devices on vehicles.

Mr GUNNER: I am happy to take that question on notice and provide an answer to the House tomorrow about tracking devices on vehicles.

Education - Teachers with Temporary Contracts

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

According to the department's latest annual report, 38.9% of classroom teachers in the Northern Territory are on temporary contracts. Many of these contracts will expire in July, meaning those teachers do not have job security. It means they cannot plan for their future, and they worry they may need to leave their classroom. Have you done anything to give these teachers security? How many temporary contract teachers have been given permanency since you came to government?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I welcome that question because this is one of the residues of the CLP government. When I became Minister for Education one of the key things on my list of top 10 things to do for education was ensure there were more teachers made permanent.

When you have global budgets, schools are responsible for the recruitment of their teachers. Sometimes it is about backfilling teachers because there will be teachers on study leave and maternity leave. It is about making sure there are avenues and opportunities for those teachers to be permanent to the system. One of the jobs I have been working on with the department is making sure those teachers can be permanent to the system, rather than being tied to that school.

Milikapiti Police Station

Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Milikapiti police station was opened two years ago but is still not operational, with officers having to travel from Pirlangimpi to attend incidents there. When will Milikapiti's station be operational? How many houses were constructed with the station to house officers? How many are currently occupied?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, there are three police posts on the Tiwi Islands: Milikapiti, which the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned, Pirlangimpi and Wurrumiyanga. The one at Milikapiti is fully functional as a temporary police post, and has the capacity for overnight stays. At the moment it is staffed out of Pirlangimpi, which is overstaffed every month. When Pirlangimpi is overstaffed, the additional staff are taken out to Milikapiti to support the Milikapiti police station.

I am talking to the Police Commissioner about how we can police better remotely. Milikapiti has become part of that conversation. There are many communities that want police permanently based in them. We do not have the capacity to put police in every community. We want to change to a demand model in which we can position police in a community for longer. It might not be a once a month visit; they might be there for a couple of weeks on demand. It is intelligence-led policing in consultation with the local community. We want to work to a model that is more responsive to the demands of remote communities. It is recognised that everyone wants police; we just cannot physically get them everywhere.

Milikapiti has been caught up in that. There is a once a month visit to Milikapiti. My understanding is the accommodation there is not the greatest. The Police Association has put some question marks on it and has expressed some concerns. Police can still stay there, but they are not happy with the accommodation. We are in conversation about other government employee housing assets in that community that could present a better option for police to stay at when they are at Milikapiti. The accommodation issue is being sorted, and we are finding other potential options for police in the community.

We also recognise that there is pressure on policing remotely. It is genuine pressure for good reasons. We have to be thoughtful about how we get police into communities for longer. I am not sure if the current system that the commissioner agreed with is working as best it could. We are looking at how to make it more demand driven and responsive to community needs. We recognise that many communities want police permanently, but we do not have the physical capacity to do that everywhere.

It is something we will have to talk through with local communities to make sure they are happy with the service delivery they are getting. There are a number of communities in the Northern Territory which are talking to me about having a better, longer police presence. I thank the remote members of my party who have raised this issue with me, as you have, Member for Daly. We want to make sure we are providing good services to Territorians wherever they are, and we need to have a good conversation about how we do that better with police.

Art Gallery and Cultural Centre – Alice Springs

Mrs LAMBLEY to MINISTER for TOURISM and CULTURE

We are all very excited in Central Australia about the new national Indigenous art gallery and cultural centre. It is the biggest public project on the agenda, with funding of \$70m in total coming through in 2020. We have heard a lot about the art gallery. The talk about the cultural centre has dried up from a public perspective. I would like to know where you are up to with the cultural centre side. Will those two projects be joined or will they be separate? Are you worried about missing out on the national status for these national Indigenous projects?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I am glad the Member for Araluen is as excited as we are about having such a big investment in arts and culture in Alice Springs. It is a commitment we are very passionate and excited about. I can definitely say the cultural centre discussion has not dried up at all, and I was very glad to speak to the *Centralian Advocate* last week about the cultural centre commitments.

We have \$50m allocated towards the national Indigenous art gallery, and \$20m allocated towards the iconic cultural centre. As I have spoken about previously, these are two distinct projects. The national Indigenous art gallery is being led by us, as government, and the steering committee. The Nganampa Development Corporation is taking the lead on the national Indigenous cultural centre. They have done an incredible amount of work. I give credit to them for the amount of work that has been done in Alice Springs on these concepts. We are providing \$108 000 to assist with further consultation on the cultural centre, and we are providing a resource within my department to assist them as well.

There is a lot of consultation to be done, and I recognise how complex that consultation will be. We want to tell the story of Central Australia and the national story of the oldest living culture in this country. We believe Alice Springs is the right place for both of those projects. I am very excited about the people we have involved in these projects. I am also excited about the people we will be announcing in due course as being involved in these projects.

We will get the recognition we want for both of these projects, with Alice Springs being the rightful place for them. I hope we get the full support of this Chamber in wanting to achieve that for Central Australia. We recognise how ambitious that is. In speaking to stakeholders about these projects I understand their excitement because we are excited as well. I am really pleased with the reception I am getting from speaking to stakeholders in the Territory and nationally.

I think we will get the backing we want, and I really hope we can count on the support of everyone to get national attention on these projects. Tourism and the arts are such a major part of our economy. Again, I hope we get the full support of this Chamber for those projects.

Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review

Mr WOOD to CHIEF MINISTER

Yesterday the government announced its Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review. It says that the key matters the review will report on are evidence-based policy initiatives required to reduce alcohol-fuelled crime, ensuring safe and vibrant entertainment precincts, alcohol service provision and management in remote communities, decision-making under the *Liquor Act*, the density of liquor licences and the size of liquor outlets. Chief Minister, does this mean that any promises made to the AHA before the election will be subject to review under this review?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, those are the draft terms of reference that are going out for comment now, to produce the final terms of reference. You are more than welcome to contribute to what the final terms of reference will be, and we will genuinely look at everything within the terms of reference, and everything that the inquiry brings forward. We will genuinely make a decision and respond to what that inquiry brings forward. You do not go into an inquiry like this with a predetermined outcome; that is not how you get through this.

The independent inquiry into fracking is a good example of that; we do not know what that report will say when it is handed down, but as a government we will provide certainty to Territorians in response to that report. We will either ban fracking or allow unlimited highly-regulated circumstances. Our promise to Territorians was clear that we will provide certainty in response to that.

When the draft terms of reference are finalised we will go through an inquiry period and a report will be handed down. We will genuinely respond to that report based on its recommendations. We will go through that process. There will be clear outcomes from the inquiry, and then we will make a clear response to the outcomes. That is how you do it. We will be open and genuine with this process. Our decision will be based on the outcomes of that inquiry.

I do not think we could be clearer about where we are at. We will have this inquiry. The final terms of reference will come out soon. There will be an inquiry based on those final terms of reference. We will respond genuinely to whatever that inquiry comes forward with.

Ms FYLES (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I ask that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.