

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II.

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

An asterisk preceding an entry in the index indicates that an answer has not yet been received.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

Government Assistance for Tradesmen to Visit Remote Areas

44 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What assistance will the government provide to enable electrical, plumbing and building tradesmen and inspectors to visit remote centres such as Borroloola to assist home owners?

From 24 February 1981

Katherine Electricity Supply

133 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will electricity to be reticulated to the new water supply at Donkey Camp near Katherine be extended to cater for consumers and future subdivisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the \$1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

Students Assistance

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in

charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?

2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?
3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?
4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?
2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?
2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

From 19 August 1981

St Vidgeon Station and Eva Valley Station

346 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the future of St Vidgeon Station where Aborigines are building stock yards, etc.?
2. What is the future of Eva Valley Station?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

Interpreter Service for Aborigines

469 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action does the government intend taking in response to the working party's report on the need for Aboriginal interpreter services in the NT?

2. If such services are to be established, what will be (a) their nature, (b) their funding, and (c) anticipated commencement date?

Department of Community Development - Counselling

475 Mr B. COLLINS for MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many officers are involved in counselling in the Department of Community Development?
2. What are the qualifications of the officers?
3. What is (a) the average baseload, and (b) the average number of clients seen per week by each counsellor?
4. What percentage of the clients are Aboriginal?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?
2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine Corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

Prawning Licences

493 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many prawning licences were granted by the Department of Primary Production in 1979-80 and 1980-81?
2. How many prawning licences were in existence as at 30 June (a) 1978, (b) 1979, (c) 1980, and (d) 1981?

NTDC Loans

494 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many applications for Northern Territory Development Corporation loans were received from the agricultural and horticultural industries in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
2. How many applications were successful and for what activities were loans granted?
3. What was the average repayment period associated with loans granted?
4. Were any interest or repayment holidays granted on any loans to the rural sector?

From 1 December 1981

Detoxification Centres

499 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the government support the establishment of detoxification centres, pick-up services and halfway houses for the Northern Territory?

2. What is the government's attitude to the introduction of a concessional differential on low alcohol beer?

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Darwin Central Community Health Centre

503 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government considering relocating the Darwin Central Community Health Centre and, if so, where is it to be located and for what reasons?

Chest X-rays - National Tuberculosis Act 1948

504 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since the introduction of the 'user pays' medical and health charges on 1 September 1981, (a) what arrangements have been made by his department under the National Tuberculosis Act 1948 for the general public to have chest x-rays at no charge at general hospitals throughout the NT, and (b) if arrangements have been made will they be advertised in the media throughout the Northern Territory?

Attendance Figures at Outpatients

505 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. From 1 September to 31 October 1981, how many people (a) who attended outpatients departments in NT hospitals, and (b) who were hospitalised, were (i) insured, (ii) uninsured, or (iii) held disadvantaged and PHB cards?
2. How do those figures compare with those for the same period during 1980?
3. What was the percentage of Aboriginals in each of those categories?

Non-urgent Outpatients Treatment

506 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people wanting non-urgent treatment at outpatients departments in NT hospitals have not been seen because they have not had the necessary fee since 1 September 1981?

Anti-depressant Medication

507 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Are patients in NT hospitals who are not suffering from a psychosis prescribed anti-depressant medication without their knowledge and consent? If so, under what conditions?
2. How many (a) inpatients, and (b) outpatients were prescribed anti-depressant medication during 1980-81?

Allocations to Community Health Centres

508 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is he allocating from the Commonwealth's general revenue fund of \$20.6 million to community health centres, hospitals and school dental services for each hospital and community health centre?
2. How much is the NT government allocating to these areas in 1981-82, for each community health centre, hospital and school dental service?
3. What was expended under these headings in 1980-81?

Drug Education Programs in NT

509 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the drug education programs to be conducted in the Northern Territory during 1981-82?

Commonwealth Health Grants

510 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Commonwealth provided \$9 million for health planning and research in the form of grants to the states and the Northern Territory (on a \$1 for \$1 basis) and to institutions and persons?
2. If so, (a) how much has been allocated to the Northern Territory, and (b) for what purposes?

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

511 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action has been taken to correct the following unsatisfactory controls relating to grants-in-aid commented upon by the Auditor-General in 1978-79 and found to be still unsatisfactory in 1980:

- (a) inadequacies in the promulgated conditions for grants;
- (b) the absence of reference to formal acceptance of the conditions and purpose of grants;
- (c) the legal entity of grantees;
- (d) the withholding of moneys for non-compliance with grant conditions;
- (e) the lack of current formalized departmental procedures and guidelines covering functional responsibilities and criteria for the evaluation of grant applications and the monitoring of performance of grantees; and
- (f) the apparent absence of follow-up action by his department in certain instances where it is not evident that grantees had complied with the conditions of grants?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As a number of people have lost their savings in the Collia tin mine affair,

- (a) what detailed action has been taken by the Department of Mines to settle the matter;
- (b) how much money has been lost by people involved;
- (c) how much did Mr Ken Day receive for the tin he mined from Collia;

- (d) why has he not explained in the Legislative Assembly what action the government has taken;
- (e) did the Department of Law recommend that anybody be charged over the affair and, if so, why was not that recommended action proceeded with;
- (f) was the government's lack of action coloured by the fact that Mr Day was once the head of the Progress Party, whose votes had helped the Country Liberal Party;
- (g) what is now being done about the matter; and
- (h) are police trying to contact the previous leaseholder who disappeared and, if so, do they know in which state he is residing?

Public Housing in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81; and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?
2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?
3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Expenditure on Aids to Disabled People

516 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he ascertain and advise how the funds were spent in 1980-81 which the Commonwealth provided for aids to disabled people who were not eligible under Commonwealth-state programs?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?
2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?
3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Applications to Health Department for Grants-in-Aid

519 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many (a) applications for grants-in-aid were lodged for 1981-82, and (b) which organisations were unsuccessful?

Variations Between Bed Costs in NT Hospitals

520 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why do the bed costs in NT hospitals vary between \$78 and \$254, and where does this variation occur?

Staff Reductions at Casuarina Hospital

523 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Which staff organisations at the Casuarina Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their memberships?
2. In which areas have staff reduction already been effected?
3. How many people have been affected to date?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

Separate Facilities at Casuarina Hospital

529 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he rejected his working party recommendations to erect separate facilities at Casuarina Hospital for psychiatric, handicapped and geriatric patients?
2. If so, why?
3. If not, has any money been allocated for their establishment in 1981-82, and when does he expect such facilities to be operational?

Nursing Home Care

530 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many elderly patients does he anticipate are in need of nursing home care?
2. How many are Aborigines?
3. Are there any plans to establish separate facilities for the elderly Aborigines?

Disadvantaged Cards

532 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people does he estimate could be classified as disadvantaged who have not yet received a disadvantaged card and what percentage of these are Aborigines?

Psychiatric Services

533 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the overall strategy of the government to improve psychiatric services?
2. What are seen as the main priorities?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?
2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from \$510,000 to \$475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Health Funding

535 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does he expect to re-examine the Territory revenue raising capacity with the Commonwealth Minister for Health?
2. Is he compiling the necessary statistics, previously not available, to strengthen our case for additional Commonwealth funding? If so, what do these statistics comprise?

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?
2. How many were transferred?
3. What was the average length of stay per patient?
4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?
2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?
3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

Staffing Levels in NT Hospitals

541 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Where does he expect staffing levels in Territory hospitals to be reduced and by how many and when?

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

546 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Aboriginal teaching assistants are expected to be employed in 1981-82 and at which homeland centres?

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?
2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

From 9 March 1982

Hospital Treatment of Cases of Domestic Violence

549 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When a woman presents to a NT hospital with injuries or illness which she identifies as being caused by domestic violence, what procedures does the hospital follow?
2. What mechanism does the hospital have to ensure the victim is referred to other assistance she may require?
3. In the past 12 months, what number and percentage of (a) outpatients attendances, and (b) inpatient stays were related to domestic violence?

Child Protection Consultative Committee

550 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. Has the Child Protection Consultative Committee yet been established?
2. If so, has it begun collecting statistics on the incidence of domestic violence?
3. Is any other agency collecting similar data relating to domestic violence affecting adults?

Douglas-Daly and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Stations

553 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What hectareage of Douglas-Daly Experimental Station and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station have been transferred from the Department of Primary Production to the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority?

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Bilingual Education Programs

576 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will staff numbers in bilingual education programs in schools in the southern directorate be maintained next year?

Molyhill Mine in Central Australia

592 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Have officers from the inspection and safety section visited the Molyhill mine in central Australia recently?
2. If so, what were their comments and recommendations regarding dust suppression and the use of cyanide?
3. Were copies of the officers' report made available to Molyhill employees and, if not, why not?

Aboriginal Health Workers

593 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does his department have a policy of employing Aboriginal health workers on mobile rural health teams and, if not, why not?

Rapid Creek Water Gardens Project

596 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek water gardens project already has 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the gardens will look like, what was (a) the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project, and (b) what was the cost of the third sign?

Superannuation Salary Deductions for NT Public Servants

601 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

1. What amount has been deducted from the salaries of NT government employees for superannuation purposes since 1 July 1978?
2. What amount has been forwarded by the NT government to the Commonwealth Superannuation Fund Investment Trust Account since 1 July 1978?
3. How much of the total amount deducted from employees' salaries for superannuation in the NT since 1 July 1978, has (a) been kept in the NT, (b) to what purpose has it been put, and (c) what rates of interest have been earned on this money?

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign

607 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What action will his department take to provide grids on public roads to assist control of cattle during the TB and brucellosis eradication campaign?

Electricity Supply Around Katherine

609 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What progress is being made towards providing electricity to (a) Katherine Gorge, (b) the 15-mile Farm (KREC), and (c) the low-level area and rural development?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?
2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?
3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephones for new private or government subdivisions?

Katherine Town Boundaries

619 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Katherine Municipal Council applied to have the town boundaries extended?
2. If so, (a) has the application been made as a result of any government action, and (b) what benefits would be expected to flow from an extension of the town boundaries?

Fire Fighting Equipment in Elsey Electorate

621 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What fire fighting equipment is available at (a) Mataranka, (b) Beswick, (c) Bamyili, (d) Numbulwar, and (e) Ngukurr?
2. Are residents in these centres recruited to form volunteer fire brigades?

ILO Conventions

622 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that the Minister for Industrial Relations informed the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 18 November 1981 (H. of R. Hansard, p.3098) that on 26 May and 3 June 1977 the Northern Territory indicated by letter that in its view the Aboriginal population of the Territory does not constitute a dependent, indigenous population for the purposes of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?
2. Who wrote the letter and on what date and by what means did the Northern Territory government authorise it?
3. Is he aware that a former Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations informed the former Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 4 October 1977 (H. of R. Hansard, p.1607) that a review instituted by his department in April 1977 had revealed inconsistencies between provisions in the Northern Territory Apprentices Ordinance and the ILO convention?

Standards Set by ILO Conventions

623 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by those International Labour Organisation conventions which the ILO lists as basic human rights conventions but which Australia has not yet ratified, viz:
 - (a) No. 135 - Workers' Representatives, 1971;
 - (b) No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations, 1976;
 - (c) No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978; and
 - (d) No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981?
2. What views has the NT government expressed to the Commonwealth government

on the provisions of each of these conventions?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning each of these conventions?

ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights

624 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1966 ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights which Australia signed in December 1972 and ratified in August 1980?
2. What views has the Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of this convention since it entered into force in March 1976?
3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have discussions or consultations taken place between the Territory and Commonwealth governments concerning this convention?

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

625 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1980 Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women?
2. What views has the Northern Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of the convention?
3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning the ratification of the convention?

Juvenile Crime in NT

626 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has there been an increase in the incidence of juvenile crime in the Northern Territory?
2. If so, (a) can he provide figures to demonstrate this increase, (b) what are the causes of this increase, (c) what action is to be taken to rectify the situation, and (d) what are the main offences being committed?
3. What is the average age of juvenile offenders?
4. (a) How many juvenile inmates are in NT institutions and how does this figure compare with that for the same period last year? (b) What is the average length of stay for a juvenile inmate?

Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust Account

627 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that Aborigines on Groote Eylandt have a trust account of \$4m yielding more than \$400,000 per annum interest?
2. Are these Territorians subject to a means test for social service benefits?

Payments under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act

629 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

In 1981, (a) how many payments, and (b) in what amounts, were made under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act?

Department of Health Debt Collectors

630 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Department of Health arranged contracts with debt collectors?
2. If so, which debt collecting firms have been contracted to serve each hospital or departmental administrative area?
3. In the case of each of the Territory's 5 hospitals, (a) what is the designation of the officer who makes the decision to use the debt collecting service to obtain payment of outstanding accounts, (b) in how many cases of failure to pay has the debt collection service been used to recover funds, and (c) how much money has been so recovered?

Hospital Payments by Instalments Scheme

631 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many patients who have received treatment at a Territory hospital or community health centre have elected to pay through an instalments scheme?
2. Are departmental staff instructed to offer a payment by instalments scheme to patients who cannot settle their accounts in a lump sum?

Staffing in Territory Hospitals

632 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many extra staff have been employed at (i) Darwin Hospital, (ii) Alice Springs Hospital, (iii) Katherine Hospital, (iv) Tennant Creek Hospital, and (v) Gove District Hospital to perform extra clerical and cashier duties associated with the new funding arrangements?

Psychiatric Inpatients

633 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the rate of readmission of psychiatric inpatients (a) voluntarily, and (b) involuntarily under the Mental Health Act?
2. What is the average length of stay in hospital for (a) voluntary, and (b) involuntary patients?
3. Are persons who are involuntarily detained required to pay hospital fees?
4. How many patients are currently involuntarily detained?

Public Servants

635 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

How many (a) Commonwealth, and (b) NT public servants were employed in the NT on 31 January 1982?

School Leavers Entering Apprenticeships

636 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the problems that school leavers, particularly those

- not living with their parents, face when entering apprenticeships?
2. If so, what does the NT government do or intend doing to enable such disadvantaged youths to enjoy equality with their peers?

Beef Tenderising Techniques

637 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is he or his department promoting tenderising techniques such as tender stretch and electrical rectal stimulation to make Territory beef acceptable to Darwin housewives?

From 16 March 1982

Hospital Costs, Katherine

638 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. During (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, (i) what did it cost to operate Katherine Hospital, and (ii) what was the bed occupancy rate?
2. What is the estimated cost of operating Katherine Hospital for 12 months with a bed occupancy rate of 85%?

Motor Vehicle Accidents

639 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the NT Police Force keep separate figures on motor vehicle accidents involving (a) Territory residents, (b) tourists, (c) Aboriginal Territory residents, and (d) non-Aboriginal Territory residents?

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Aboriginal Community Work Program

641 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. The Northern Territory government initiated the Aboriginal Community Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years, which was to conclude in January 1982. Has this occurred?
2. Has a report been compiled for consideration by the government agency reviewing the program?
3. If so, when is it anticipated that the government will table this report?

Pine Creek Hall

642 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much money (a) has been allocated for the Pine Creek Hall, (b) how much was actually spent, and (c) what happened to any moneys left over during the financial years (i) 1974-75, (ii) 1975-76, (iii) 1976-77, (iv) 1977-78, (v) 1978-79, (vi) 1979-80, and (vii) 1980-81?
2. Has there ever been an audit of the Pine Creek Hall trust account? If so, where can a copy be procured?
3. If the answer to 2. is no, why has not there been an audit?

4. Who were the trustees of the hall as at 16 December 1981?

NTEC Employees - Remuneration and Benefits

643 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Which NTEC employees are (a) paid remuneration and or salaries other than at NTEC award rate, (b) what are the salaries paid in these cases, and (c) what other benefits do these people receive by way of, (i) exclusive use of high standard motor vehicles, (ii) credit cards, and (iii) expense accounts?

NTEC Employees - Award Negotiations

644 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Were negotiations for a new NTEC employees award conducted on 30 November 1981, 1 December 1981 and 2 December 1981 at the Travelodge and other places?
2. If so, (a) during the course of these negotiations was a food and drink bill for entertainment on the evening of 30 November 1981 signed in the name of an Assistant General Manager, who was not present, by another person, and (b) what was the amount of the bill?
3. What are (a) the details of all interstate trips made by the Assistant General Manager (Industrial) of NTEC during 1981, (b) the reasons that made each trip necessary, and (c) were any of the trips made for the purpose only of picking up consent judgments of an industrial tribunal?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Grants-in-Aid, 1980-81

646 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. In 1980-81, under the Grants-in-Aid scheme to voluntary community organisations working in the youth, sport and recreation field, how much money was given to these organisations for (a) administration, (b) equipment, (c) facilities, (d) salary subsidies, (e) special projects, (f) training-coaching, and (g) travel subsidies?
2. How much money under the Grants-in-Aid scheme was given to community service organisations in 1980-81?

Mung Beans, ADMA Markets

647 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has ADMA yet established firm export markets for mung beans to be purchased by the authority this season?
2. If so, where are these markets?
3. What progress is being made with the ADMA market strategy generally?

Computers, Department of Education

648 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Did the Department of Education hire Price Waterhouse to draw up a report on its use of computers at all levels?
2. If so, (a) when was the report given to the department, (b) is it available for scrutiny, and (c) is it true that the department has 14 different types of word processors?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

Koolpinyah Pastoral Lease

650 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government intend to accept part of Koolpinyah lease in exchange for granting Koolpinyah management an additional lease?
2. If so, what is (a) the location and area of land Koolpinyah is to relinquish to the government and, (b) the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinyah?

Koolpinyah Boundaries

651 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I refer to the proposed 'Rationalisation of boundaries for Koolpinyah' and ask: Is it a fact that both the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority recommended against the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries and, if so, on what information did Cabinet agree on 22 December 1981 to accept in principle the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries?

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey and Hodgson Downs pastoral leases for use as community areas for Aborigines?
2. Is the government's failure to obtain such excisions frustrating provision of essential services such as septic systems, power supplies, airstrips and housing?

ANSWER

1. The area sought by the Aborigines of Elsey Station has been surveyed and negotiations for a surrender by the lessees are currently proceeding. Reactions by the lessees in respect of contentious issues have been such as to give optimism that a satisfactory resolution is possible in the foreseeable future.

In respect of Hodgson Downs, negotiations for an excision have been underway since 1974. However, the lessees are understood to be no longer in favour of an excision but would be more inclined to consider a sub-leasing arrangement. There is also a problem in respect of locating a suitable water supply and the community may need to consider an alternative site. Negotiations are to be pursued.

2. In that the granting of excisions is at the option of the lessee it can hardly be regarded as a failure on the part of government that such excisions have not yet been achieved. Both the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, which continues to carry the primary responsibility for the development of Aboriginal communities on pastoral leases, and the NT government, which is responsible for providing essential services, are reluctant to provide capital improvements short of a firm excision or sub-leasing arrangement being achieved. However, in respect of both leases in question governments have anticipated resolution and have provided amenities by way of accommodation, schooling, shower, toilet and laundry facilities, and power generation.

East West Airlines

162 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Did the government receive from East West around May 1980 details of that company's borrowing capacity, including (a) current East West borrowing capacity, (b) borrowing requirements for operations outside the Territory, (c) equity levels to support borrowing, and (d) capacity to support borrowing by the NT airline?
2. If so, why was this information not made available to the merchant banker, Hill Samuel?

ANSWER

East West submitted their first formal request for guarantees in May 1980. It did purport to detail the items in the question.

This information was made available to Hill Samuel.

East West Airlines

163 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the 3-man committee established by the government to examine the Connair takeover offers first recommend acceptance of other offers before recommending East West?

ANSWER

The working party recommended that the NT government accept the offer of East West Airlines to operate the new regional airline, subject to East West's acceptance of the specific requirements set down by the government on the operation of the airline.

The working party made no deviation from that recommendation.

Industries Training Commission

173 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many apprentices are with the Industries Training Commission?
2. What is the number in each trade and the breakdown of males and females for each category?

ANSWER

1. The Industries Training Commission is responsible for the registration of the Northern Territory apprentices, it does not directly employ apprentices itself.

At the end of the 1980-81 financial year, the first full year of operation of the commission, a record 1,007 apprentices were in training. This was a 13% increase over the same period in the previous year.

As at 30 September 1981, this number had risen to 1,033 and it appears as though a further significant increase will occur during the 1981-82 financial year.

2. Total Apprentices in Training - at 30 September 1981:

<u>Trade</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Metal trades	468	7	475
Electrical trades	202	1	203
Building trades	156	Nil	156
Printing trades	19	4	23
Vehicle trades	27	Nil	27
Food trades	51	8	59
Other trades	37	53	90
TOTAL	960	73	1,033

Medical Practitioners Servicing Community Health Centres

205 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many doctors have been servicing community health centres, and how many of these are private practitioners?

ANSWER

Eleven doctors are servicing community health centres at present. Only one of these doctors is a private practitioner.

Alice Springs Women's Community Centre

223 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When will the Women's Community Centre in Alice Springs commence operations?
2. If the centre has not been opened by the end of June 1981 will the Department of Health continue to fund St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army to enable these agencies to provide services to destitute

and homeless people until the new centre is open?

3. If not, why not?
4. If so, have these agencies been informed that their funding will be maintained until the new centre commences operations?

ANSWER

1. The commencement date is uncertain at this time; however, a paper prepared by the Department of Lands should be placed before the Executive Council in the near future.
2. Yes.
3. Not applicable.
4. Yes.

Beef Exports to South-east Asia

239 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the government commission a survey of markets for beef in South-east Asia and other areas?

ANSWER

The NT government has, through ministerial and government-supported trade missions, made a concerted effort over the past few years to promote the sale of livestock and meat to the Asian market.

Results have been:

1. Investment in cattle stations by South-east Asian interests to ensure for themselves a regular supply of livestock and meat, e.g. Sabah government's purchase of Camfield and Legune stations.
2. An overall increased demand in the Asian region for bovine animals, meat and offals from the Northern Territory. Bureau of Statistics figures compiled by the Commonwealth Department of Trade show an approx. 33% increase in sales in 1980-81 over 1979-80 from \$6.6 million to \$8.9 million.
3. A new outlet established for NT buffaloes is Indonesia and indications of interest from East and West Malaysia.
4. A strong interest in Indonesia for Territory-bred cattle for breeding purposes.

Grants-in-Aid - Darwin Sporting Bodies

322 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Darwin sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of \$742,305 was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Darwin sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Grants-in-Aid - Alice Springs Sporting Bodies

323 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided by the NT government through Grants-in-Aid to Alice Springs sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

ANSWER

A total of \$113,520 was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Alice Springs sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Grants-in-Aid - Tennant Creek Sporting Bodies

324 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Tennant Creek sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of \$10,434 was given to Tennant Creek sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Grants-in-Aid - Katherine Sporting Bodies

325 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Katherine Sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of \$17,229 was provided through Grants-in-Aid to Katherine sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Health Centre at Katherine

353 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is a health centre to be built at Katherine within 1 mile of the existing community health centre?

ANSWER

The honourable member is referred to my letter of 15 October 1981, in which I advised that a service is to be provided by the Kalano Association (Katherine) Aboriginal Medical Services and will be funded by the Commonwealth.

Special Purposes Lease Application for 15-mile Camp

357 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- (a) Is he aware that a group of Aboriginal people at the 15-mile camp in rural Darwin (Electorate of Tiwi) is seeking a Special Purposes Lease to this camping site?
- (b) What discussions within his department and negotiations with the Aboriginal group have been held on the granting of such lease?
- (c) Does he intend to grant a lease to the 15-mile camp or any alternative site known to be suitable to the group?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Officers of both the Department of Lands and the Department of Community Development have inspected the present camp and discussed site requirements with the Aboriginal Development Foundation and the Aboriginal group.
- (c) Subject to normal site selection, rezoning, subdivision and survey processes, a lease in the Darwin rural area, or in Palmerston, will

be offered to the Aboriginal Development Foundation, the responsible umbrella organisation capable of holding title.

NT Pastoral Leases

364 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he please table the following information:

- (a) The names and sizes of pastoral leases in the Northern Territory
(i) where the lease is held by Australian citizens as lessee-occupiers, and (ii) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory, (iii) where the majority of directors and shareholders live in the Northern Territory, (iv) where the lease is held by companies registered in the Northern Territory but where the majority of directors and shareholders live outside the Northern Territory, and (v) where the lease is held by companies registered outside the Northern Territory?
- (b) The names of the companies registered in the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?
- (c) The names of the companies registered outside the Northern Territory and which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?
- (d) The location of registration of the interstate companies which hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?
- (e) The names and addresses of individuals who live outside the Northern Territory and who hold pastoral leases in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The information is available to the questioner and to members of the public for that matter by search at the Registrar-General's office and the Registrar of Companies' office.

Ministerial Statement on Health

376 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. In a ministerial statement he stated that officers have visited Aboriginal communities. How many communities have been visited and by whom?
2. He stated that the number of authorized beds is to be reduced from 312 to 292. As this number includes a 12-bed surgical day ward, what else does it include?
3. He also stated that staff is to be reduced by 70. When does he intend that this reduction take place, what staff will be affected, and where?

ANSWER

1. In the East Arnhem region, 8 settlements and several outstations were visited. District medical officers briefed all councils with a follow up program conducted by the regional health educator at all rural communities.

In the Alice Springs and Barkly regions, all major settlements and most minor communities were visited by various district medical officers. Smaller isolated communities were visited by rural health sisters. Lengthy discussions were held with organisations such as CAAC Medical Service and Urapunga Health Service.

In the Darwin and Katherine regions, district medical officers discussed the new health charging system with councils during routine visits to rural communities. Nursing staff at major settlements were briefed

on the new system and will provide assistance to the community.

2. Ward 2A was closed resulting in a reduction of 32 beds. Twelve beds were transferred to other wards leaving a net reduction of 20 beds.
3. The reduction of staff at Casuarina Hospital will affect 13 of the 15 staff categories at the hospital. The reduction will be achieved through natural wastage.

Health Clinic at Lake Nash

377 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Is it true that his department sought the use of the former police station at Lake Nash as a health clinic, but that the former Director of Health decided that the station would be better used as a home and office for a stock inspector?
2. If so, what arrangements are being made to establish and staff a health clinic at Lake Nash?

ANSWER

1. The Department of Health requested the use of the former police station at Lake Nash for use as a clinic and staff residence. Other interested departments also applied for the use of the building. After evaluating all requests the building was finally allocated as being most suitable for the purposes of the Department of Primary Production.
2. A demountable clinic is available for transport to Lake Nash. Its installation has been delayed pending a decision by the community whether to remain or to move to a new location.

Kailis Fishing Company - Trucking Route

468 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is it accurate to describe the proposed trucking route to be used by the Kailis fishing company between Roper River and Darwin as an 'all weather' route?
2. How much of the route is unsealed?

ANSWER

This question should have been directed to the Minister for Transport and Works.

1. Yes.
2. 86 kilometres.

Sexual Harassment

470 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What action has been taken by departments and authorities to develop policies and procedures for resolving cases of sexual harassment at the workplace since the circulation of the Guidelines on Sexual Harassment to departmental heads and prescribed authorities by the Public Service Commissioner on 29 June 1981?
2. Have any complaints of sexual harassment been made and, if so, how many and what action followed?

ANSWER

1. Fourteen departments and prescribed authorities have been surveyed to determine the action taken since the Guidelines on Sexual Harass-

ment were issued by the Public Service Commissioner on 29 June 1981.

Seven departments and prescribed authorities have issued policy statements signed by the Chief Executive Officer expressing management's concern that the workplace should be free of sexual harassment. Internal procedures for dealing with complaints of sexual harassment have been circulated to all employees of these departments.

Six departments and prescribed authorities have publicised the Public Service Commissioner's memorandum and will shortly be issuing internal procedures for resolving complaints of sexual harassment.

One department has not taken any action to date, but will now prepare internal guidelines to be released.

2. This office has been advised of 3 cases of sexual harassment in the last year. In all cases offending employees were strongly reprimanded by senior departmental management and advised that any recurrence of the misconduct would not be tolerated. To this end closer supervision in the work areas has also been exercised.

Aboriginal Liaison Unit

471 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the allocation for travel for the officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit for 1981-82?
2. How much was expended in 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. Allocation for travel for the officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit for 1981-82 is \$87,000.
2. Expenditure for 1980-81 was \$56,754.

United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

472 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the NT agreed to accept the United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its present form?
2. If not, what section of the convention does the NT wish to be changed?

ANSWER

1. It is not for the Northern Territory to accept or reject the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. The ratification or otherwise of the convention is a matter for the Commonwealth government to decide. It is the policy of that government to consult the states and the Northern Territory with respect to conventions dealing with 'state' matters.

The Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights, of which Hon. P.A.E. Everingham is a member in his capacity as Attorney-General, is currently examining the requirements of the convention with a view to determining the basis of the Commonwealth's ratification on behalf of Australia. The convention will be further considered at the next ministerial meeting scheduled for February 1982.

2. The terms of the convention have been agreed by the General Assembly of the UN and are not open to amendment. At this stage, the convention is still under detailed consideration and it is too early to specify whether the Territory will be seeking any reservations in relation to specific articles of the convention in Australia's instrument of ratification.

Domestic Violence in NT

473 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government consider there is a need to take action on the problem of domestic violence in the NT community and, if so, what action does it consider is necessary?

ANSWER

I answered this question without notice in the Legislative Assembly.

Strategies for Employment of Aborigines

474 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the strategies being undertaken for increasing employment of Aborigines by the NT government?

ANSWER

The NTPS is making use of the Australian government's national employment strategy for Aborigines and giving on the job training for young Aborigines. The task of coordinating these trainees and assisting them into permanent employment has recently been handed over to the Equal Employment Opportunity Unit of the Public Service Commissioner's Office by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs. It is intended to extend the NESA scheme within the NTPS to apply to vacancies above base grade levels.

A residential pre-entry training program has been drafted by the Public Service Commissioner's office in conjunction with the principals of Kormilda and Yirara. It is proposed that the course involve trainees for a period of 8 weeks and is aimed at equipping them with the necessary academic and social skills for entry into the NTPS and into the urban working and social environment.

Free Health Care for Pensioners

478 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he considered extending free health care to all pensioners regardless of whether they qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card, as occurs in New South Wales?
2. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. This has been considered.
2. It is not intended to extend free health care to all pensioners regardless of whether they qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card. Those who do not qualify for a disadvantaged or PHB card fall into the category of the user pays principle of the Commonwealth government. An investigation conducted in NSW showed that the vast majority of such pensioners have private health insurance.

Treatment of Trachoma in Aboriginal Communities

479 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he provide details of the evidence available on the effectiveness of tetracycline eyedrops in the treatment of trachoma in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

The effectiveness of tetracycline eyedrops in Aboriginal communities in the NT has been studied by Dr M.I. Mahmood of the NT Department of Health and by Dr D. Graham of the Department of Microbiology, University of Melbourne. Dr Graham's study has been completed and the other study is still in progress. Although the 2 studies differ in detail both tend to show that tetracycline eyedrops have no effect in reducing the numbers affected by trachoma but have a definite effect on reducing the severity. Since the rate of blindness from trachoma is related to the severity of the disease, tetracycline eyedrop treatment is felt to be a valuable mass treatment method. Other methods for reducing the overall prevalence of trachoma have been worked out and will require some preliminary research to implement. It is hoped to start this next year when consultations with Professor Barrie Jones of London University (the world's leading trachoma expert) are complete.

Occupational Health Hazards

480 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

During 1980-81, (a) what occupational health hazards have been reported, (b) what areas have been identified as 'at risk', and (c) what expansion has there been in the occupational health capacity?

ANSWER

- (a) Following the appointment of a qualified staff member early in 1981, 6 suspected health hazards were reported and investigated. There was 1 complaint of suspected air contamination, the remainder relating to occupational noise levels.
- (b) Two occupational areas were identified as 'at risk' because of noise levels.
- (c) The department's long standing role in the silicosis and dust diseases area and in radiation health was expanded early in 1981 by the appointment of a health surveyor specially qualified in noise matters and with a general background in industrial health problems.

Health Insurance Claims

481 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What action has been taken to ensure that health insurance claims will be processed more quickly?
2. Are claims still taking up to 8 weeks to be processed?

ANSWER

1. Health insurance funds have been visited, written to and senior personnel contacted on a number of occasions with the request that they process their claims more quickly.
2. Some claims are still taking up to 8 weeks to be processed.

Waiting Time at Casuarina Hospital

482 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Is action to be taken to reduce the average waiting time of 70 minutes for non-urgent cases and 30 minutes for urgent cases at the Casuarina Hospital casualty department?
2. If so, what action?

ANSWER

I am advised that these times compare very favourably indeed with the average waiting times in all other large Australian hospitals.

Direct Telephone Line from Katherine Hospital to Police Station

483 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is there a direct telephone line from the Katherine Hospital to the police station for emergency use?

ANSWER

No.

Out-of-turn Allocations by Housing Commission

484 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the government establish an appeals system for those applicants who have been refused out-of-turn allocation by the Housing Commission and who still consider their situation warrants further consideration?

ANSWER

On 8 January 1981 the NT Housing Commission introduced an appeal system for applicants who had been rejected for an out-of-turn allocation.

Mentally-Retarded Children in NT Primary Schools

485 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many mentally-retarded children are attending primary schools in the NT?
2. What specialist staff is provided for such children?

ANSWER

1. 251 children have been identified as 'mentally-retarded' in NT primary schools.

Note:

- (i) 'mental-retardation' as a term has been applied only to those children who have achieved less than 70 points of IQ on an individual test of intelligence appropriate to the ethnic origin of the child;
- (ii) 38 children have been regarded as moderately/severely mentally-retarded (i.e., IQ less than 55 points); and
213 children have been regarded as mildly mentally-retarded (i.e., IQ 55-70 points);
- (iii) assuming a primary school population of 20,344, the expected* and actual incidence figures are as follows:

		<u>Expected</u>	<u>Actually identified</u>
Mod/Sev (below 55 IQ)	(.135%)	27	38
Mild (55-70 IQ)	(2.14%)	435	213

- (iv) identification of mentally-retarded children in the NT is on a referral basis. Referral is made by either a principal or by a parent. The difference between the actual and expected incidence is explained partly by non-referral and partly by inappropriateness of testing instruments; and
- (v) mental retardation is, of itself, not the sole criterion for special

placement in a special school or special class.

(*S.A. KIRK: Educating Exceptional Children - Houghton Mifflin 2nd Edition 1972, page 24).

2. There are 23 special teachers and 16.5 special aides actually teaching 207 mentally-retarded children in either a special school or special class setting. The remaining 44 identified mentally-retarded children are either in an isolated setting where it is not practical to supply a special teacher or are in a regular class setting at the request of the parent.

The educational services delivered to these 44 children are met by:

- (i) the regular classroom teacher;
- (ii) the services of a resource teacher (where available); and
- (iii) the assistance of special education advisers and or guidance officers.

Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association Convention

486 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Following the government's public announcement of its encouragement for a Territory horticultural industry, were any Department of Primary Production officers present at the third national convention organised by the Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, understanding that the 4-day discussions involved growers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters and those working in packaging?

ANSWER

No. The department has previously supported the attendance of Territory growers. Representation from the Department of Primary Production will be considered for the fourth national convention in Sydney this year.

Fisheries Division Program

487 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What results are forthcoming from the new Fisheries Division program aimed at boosting the total Top End catch; that is, the program looking at Spanish mackerel, shark and demersal fish?

ANSWER

The results of the Fisheries Division programs aimed at boosting the total Top End catch are as follows:

- (a) SPANISH MACKEREL - The Fisheries Division conducted a training program for potential mackerel fishermen to learn trolling methods from September to December 1980.

A full report on the program has been published as Fisheries Report No. 4. This is available from the Department of Primary Production.

- (b) SHARK - A shark fishing and mercury sampling program was conducted from September to December 1980, using a locally chartered fishing vessel.

The results indicated that the resource of shark of the NT is substantial, and this result is borne out by catches taken by Taiwanese fishing vessels.

Overall, the results indicate that a substantial potential shark fishery exists off the NT.

- (c) DEMERSAL FISH - A consultant demersal fishery scientist has commenced duties and is currently undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of results obtained from Taiwanese fishing operations, the CSIRO research cruises and other information within the Fisheries Division.

Government Cattle at Elizabeth River Dairy

488 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Will he advise details of the records and milk samples of the dairy cattle belonging to the Department of Primary Production at Fitzgerald's Elizabeth River dairy?

ANSWER

There are 14 Australian Friesian Sahiwal (AFS) cattle belonging to the Department of Primary Production at Fitzgerald's Elizabeth River dairy.

Recording

The milk production of all the department-owned cows, together with all other lactating cows at the dairy, is recorded. Breeding records are also kept.

Each month, the Fitzgeralds complete a standard form and forward it together with milk samples for each lactating cow to the Herd Improvement Laboratory at Wacol, Queensland.

Information provided on each cow on the form includes, (i) milk yield on the day of recording; (ii) date individual cows 'dried off'; (iii) date individual cows calved; (i) details of calves born during the month; and (v) date individual cows mated.

A computer generated table summarizing herd production is returned to the Fitzgeralds within 3 weeks. The Department of Primary Production and CSIRO Division of Animal Production, Wollongbar, obtain photocopies of the herd production sheet.

Information on each cow detailed on the herd production sheet includes (i) cow number, (ii) cow name, (iii) age of cow, (iv) date calved, (v) milk yield on day of recording (daily yield), (vi) percentage butterfat of each sample forwarded, (vii) progressive total of milk in litres, (viii) progressive average of percentage butterfat, (ix) progressive total of butterfat in kilograms, (x) number of days in milk, (xi) number of times tested, and (xii) breed.

In addition, the following is also provided on the herd production sheet -

- (i) summary of production of 2 year old heifers as a group;
- (ii) summary of production of remaining lactating cows as a group;
- (iii) summary of production of total lactating herd; and
- (iv) remarks such as mating details, pregnancy status and conception difficulties for each cow.

The sex, birth weight and mortality of all calves are also recorded.

Results

Five AFS cows have completed their first lactation. Their average milk production was 8.6 litres/day and average butterfat 4.6%. This compares favourably with the herd average in 1981 of 6.8 litres/day and 4.1% butterfat.

Only one cow (702) had a lactation length that is considered unacceptably short.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

The following table details major production parameters of the AFS cattle on Fitzgerald's dairy:

Herd Recording Results for AFS (Australian Friesian Sahiwal) Dairy Cows

Cow No.	Date Calved	Calf Details	No. of Days Lactation	Total Milk	Butter Fat %
<u>First Calf</u>					
702	19.10.80	♀ 33 kg	E 164	1,088	4.9
707	18.10.80	♂	E 275	1,813	4.0
710	28.08.80	♀ (died)	E 381	3,422	4.9
716	3.10.80	♀ 25 kg	E 281	2,596	4.7
717	14.09.80	♀ 33 kg	E 341	3,277	4.9
817	13.10.81	♀ 31 kg	5	62	3.0
831	2.09.81	♀ 35 kg	46	517	4.3
839	27.07.81	aborted	83	813	3.9
846	5.08.81	♀ 28 kg	74	1,175	3.1
907	27.07.81	aborted	83	252	4.0
908	8.09.81	♀ 30 kg	40	555	4.1
950	13.10.81	♂	1	65	4.2
820	Just recently calved - no data as yet.				
830	Just recently calved - no data as yet.				
<u>Second Calf</u>					
330	27.08.81	♀ 30 kg	52	684	4.4
351	31.08.81	♂	48	703	4.8
E = Exit cow lactation complete Birth weights only available for heifers					

Government Expenditure on Agriculture

489 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will he provide a breakdown of government expenditure into seasonal requirements and agricultural development initiatives for the 1974-75 season up to the projected figures for 1981-82?

ANSWER

No, the figures are too expansive to provide.

Point Stuart Abattoir - Payment for Cattle

490 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware that the Cattlemens Union passed a resolution expressing concern at the slowness of payment by Point Stuart abattoir for cattle received for slaughter?

ANSWER

Yes.

Contract Beef Production

491 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is he aware of the decision of the Cattlemen's Union to support in principle the contract growing of beef and cattle for specific markets?

ANSWER

Yes.

Powell Creek Telegraph Station

492 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is the Powell Creek telegraph station being stripped of roofing iron, water tanks and paving stones, and being completely neglected by its present lessee?
2. If so, will the government take steps to preserve this historic complex immediately?

ANSWER

The Powell Creek telegraph station is situated on private property. It is understood that the present property manager commenced in September and is not aware of the building being stripped. A departmental officer, as recently as 26 November, attempted to visit the site but was unable to obtain access through a locked gate. However, the manager has no objection to him visiting the site, and he will do so in the near future to document it and, if appropriate, encourage the owners to maintain it.

Darwin Powerhouse Site

495 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Regarding the siting of the powerhouse on Shell Island, is he aware of the mean height of the island and has he taken into consideration the surge level of the island?

ANSWER

1. It is presumed that Mr Collins means Channel Island, not Shell Island.
2. I am aware of the topography of Channel Island and the question of surge level was considered as part of the site selection investigations.
3. The Site Selection Report embodies a section headed 'Storm Surge, Site Levels and Bund Walls', and the references to Channel Island may be summarised:

It is proposed to locate the power station on or above the 7.5 metre contour with respect to Australian Height Datum, or approximately 3.5 metres above maximum astronomical tide level. This height has been selected on the basis that the probability of surge level exceeding this height is 0.01 percent per annum. This is regarded as being adequately conservative for the construction of a power station.

Complaints under the Fish and Fisheries Act

496 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. How many complaints have been laid for illegal fishing under the Fish and Fisheries Act?
2. How many of those complaints have resulted in prosecutions?
3. How many convictions have been recorded?

ANSWER

1. The Fish and Fisheries Act commenced in February 1980. According to statistics supplied to the police from the Department of Primary Production, 8 complaints were laid prior to fisheries enforcement being transferred to the police and all these matters were disposed of in the courts. Since police assumed responsibility for enforcement there have been 69 complaints laid for breaches of the Act. Therefore, the total number of complaints laid under the Fish and Fisheries Act is 77.
2. Of the 77 complaints laid under the Act, 71 have resulted in prosecution.
3. Of the total 77 complaints proceeded with in the courts, convictions have been recorded in regard to 55, with 16 matters still pending or adjourned.

Research on Industrial Crops

497 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What research, if any, is presently being undertaken on the industrial crops cassava, sugar cane, kenof and leucaena?

ANSWER

There is no current research on these crops for their industrial potential. Kenof and sugar cane have not been researched in the Northern Territory by the Department of Primary Production. Recent work has been conducted at Kununurra by CSIRO and the WA Department of Agriculture.

Only initial research has been conducted on some cassava lines, broadly to assess productive potential and resistance to termite attack. The department does maintain some leucaena variety observation plots, but the emphasis is on supplementary fodder potential rather than industrial usage. Some small pasture trials are being established with leucaena and pangola grass.

The department has also been involved in cooperative trials on leucaena varieties and other tree species with the Conservation Commission on Mataranka Station. These are simple observation trials to assess site preparation, propagation techniques and growth performance.

Housing Commission Rental Assistance to Pensioners

498 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Federal government will not pay supplementary rental assistance of up to \$8 maximum to pensioners who become tenants of the NT Housing Commission after January 1982 but will continue to pay it to eligible pensioners accommodated by the Housing Commission prior to January 1982?
2. If so, can he give an assurance that those pensioners not in receipt of supplementary assistance will pay no more in rent than those pensioners who continue to receive supplementary rental assistance after January 1982?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. By using the current formula for calculation of rental rebate those pensioners not in receipt of supplementary rental assistance would in fact pay less rental than pensioners receiving the assistance. This situation will continue pending the development of a uniform, Australia-wide rental rebate policy. Under the current Commonwealth-State Hous-

ing Agreement, the states and the Territory are required to develop and apply a uniform rental rebate policy. In contributing to the development of such a policy, the Northern Territory government will be seeking to ensure that no Territory residents in receipt of rental rebate assistance will be worse off under the uniform policy than under the current policy.

Leucaena Trials at Mataranka

501 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What progress has been made with the leucaena trials at Mataranka?

ANSWER

Two research plots and a trial seed orchard were established in the 1980-81 season at Mataranka Station. Three other research areas were cleared and fenced for later trials.

The 2 research plots at Bull Hole and Venn airstrip were established as a cooperative exercise between the Forestry Unit of the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production. A number of observations were made on survival and growth performance of leucaena varieties and other trial species during 1981.

The property owners, Unibeef Australia Pty Ltd, have advertised the sale of Mataranka and continued trials in the area will be a matter for discussion with the new owners.

Northern Territory Public Service

502 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the average female earnings in the NTPS?
2. How many (a) male and (b) female university graduates are employed in the NTPS?

ANSWER

1. As at 30 April 1981 there were 5,161 female employees within the NT Public Service. The following table depicts the various levels at which females are employed and numbers within each designation level. The average salary of females within the service is \$13,718.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>No. of Females</u>	<u>Salary Top of Range</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Aboriginal Health Worker Grade 2	32	11,037	353,184
Aboriginal Health Worker Grade 1	47	10,579	497,213
Administrative Class A9	36	23,720	853,920
Administrative Class A8	37	21,874	809,338
Administrative Class A7	70	20,028	1,401,960
Administrative Class A6	89	18,331	1,631,459
Administrative Class A5	278	16,493	4,585,054
Administrative Class A4	436	14,648	6,386,528
Administrative Class A3	708	12,797	9,060,276
Administrative Class A2	78	12,622	984,516
Administrative Class A1	300	11,051	3,315,300
Apprentice	2	11,429	22,858
Assistant Grade 2	16	11,051	176,816
Assistant Grade 1	41	10,386	425,826
Assistant Teacher	198	12,214	2,418,372
Assistant Plan Printing Grade 2	2	11,051	22,102
Attendant	9	10,020	90,180

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

<u>Designation</u>	<u>No. of Females</u>	<u>Salary Top of Range</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Attendant Part-time	26	10,020	260,520
Binding Assistant	11	10,525	115,775
Court Reporting Typist Grade 2	1	13,686	13,686
Court Reporting Typist Grade 1	9	12,828	115,452
Community Welfare Worker	21	18,360	385,560
Senior Community Welfare Worker Grade 3	1	23,865	23,865
Senior Community Welfare Worker Grade 2	4	22,338	89,352
Senior Community Welfare Worker Grade 1	8	20,315	162,520
Computing Assistant Grade 2	1	12,713	12,713
Computer Systems Officer Grade 3	3	25,551	76,653
Computer Systems Officer Grade 1	8	18,796	150,368
Computer Systems Officer-in-Training	4	13,831	55,324
Senior Computer Operator Grade 2	1	15,818	15,818
Computer Operator Grade 2	1	13,743	13,743
Computer Operator Grade 1	3	12,633	37,899
Constable (other)	22	16,141	355,102
Consultants and Contract Staff (A4)	1	14,648	14,648
Consultants and Contract Staff (A2)	1	12,622	12,622
Curator Class 3	1	25,286	25,286
Curator Class 2	1	21,915	21,915
Curator Class 1	3	19,051	57,153
Dental Assistant	46	10,726	493,396
Senior Dental Technician	1	15,449	15,449
Dental Therapist	24	15,070	361,680
Dental Therapist-in-Training	4	9,138	36,552
Dentist Class 3	1	29,508	29,508
Dentist Class 2	1	27,020	27,020
Dentist Class 1	4	24,530	98,120
Diet Supervisor	2	11,642	23,284
Senior Draftsman	1	19,325	19,325
Draftsman Grade 2	6	17,941	107,646
Draftsman Grade 1	10	16,600	166,000
Supervising Draftsman	1	20,840	20,840
Trainee Draftsman	3	13,029	39,087
Drafting Assisting Grade 2	7	14,254	99,778
Drafting Assistant Grade 1	8	12,709	101,672
Driver	2	13,469	26,938
Electorate Secretary (A4)	18	14,648	263,664
Electrographer Grade 2	1	11,987	11,987
Electrographer Grade 1	1	11,348	11,348
Executive Level E5	1	37,396	37,396
Executive Level E3	1	29,234	29,234
Executive Level E2	6	27,394	164,364
Executive Level E1	8	25,551	204,408
Finance Officer-in-Training (A5)	3	16,493	49,479
Finance Officer-in-Training (A4)	2	14,648	29,296
Finance Officer-in-Training (A2)	3	12,622	37,866
Food Service Manager Grade 5	1	20,745	20,745
Food Service Manager Grade 3	1	16,513	16,513
Foreman	1	13,241	13,241
Graphic Designer Grade 2	1	17,941	17,941
Health Inspector	1	18,176	18,176
Hospital Assistant Grade 1	74	10,964	811,336
Journalist Grade B	1	19,054	19,054
Keyboard Operator	194	10,879	2,110,526
Laboratory Attendant	4	10,879	43,516
Labourer	518	13,700	7,096,600

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

<u>Designation</u>	<u>No. of Female</u>	<u>Salary Top of Range</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Laundry Manager	1	16,176	16,176
Laundry Supervisor	1	12,172	12,172
Law Officer Class 3	2	31,351	62,702
Law Officer Class 2	1	26,590	26,590
Law Officer Class 1	2	23,254	46,508
Librarian Class 3	1	23,734	23,734
Librarian Class 2	10	20,415	204,150
Librarian Class 1	6	17,925	107,550
Library Officer Grade 3	3	17,084	51,252
Library Officer Grade 2	6	15,385	92,310
Library Officer Grade 1	3	13,652	40,956
Principal Librarian	2	27,471	54,942
Assistant Library Officer	1	12,000	12,000
Library Assistant	1	12,000	12,000
Magistrate	1	39,918	39,918
Manual Arts Instructor	3	12,624	37,872
Matron Grade 6	2	25,298	50,596
Matron Grade 4	1	21,682	21,682
Matron Grade 3	4	19,872	79,488
Matron Grade 2	3	18,738	56,214
Matron Grade 1	11	17,599	193,589
Resident Medical Officer	7	25,560	178,920
Medical Officer Class 2	7	34,121	238,847
Medical Laboratory Assistant	21	11,166	234,486
Medical Records Officer Grade 3	2	18,331	36,662
Medical Records Officer Grade 2	1	16,493	16,493
Assistant Medical Superintendent	1	33,423	33,423
Ministerial Officer Grade 1	1	25,551	25,551
Ministerial Clerk	2	18,331	36,662
Student Nurse	56	9,786	548,016
Nursing Aide	182	11,013	2,004,366
Nursing Aide-in-Training	23	9,312	214,176
Occupational Therapy Assistant	2	11,486	22,972
Occupational Therapist Class 2	4	19,545	78,180
Occupational Therapist Class 1	2	17,174	34,348
Orderly Grade 1 (Wardsman) Grade 1	1	10,964	10,964
Psychologist Class 2	1	22,223	22,223
Physiotherapist Class 3	1	21,906	21,906
Physiotherapist Class 2	3	19,545	58,635
Physiotherapist Class 1	4	17,174	68,696
Plant Operator	1	12,749	12,749
Police Cadet	3	7,329	21,987
Prison Officer	15	13,140	197,100
Senior Prison Officer	2	14,929	29,858
Private Secretary	1	23,720	23,720
Probation and Parole Officer Grade 1	5	18,331	91,655
Professional Level 3	1	28,290	28,290
Professional Level 1	1	23,034	23,034
Radiographer Grade 3	3	17,802	53,406
Radiographer Grade 2	3	16,612	49,836
Radiographer Grade 1	2	14,817	29,634
Radiographer-in-Training	3	12,622	37,866
Ranger R1	3	12,797	38,391
Senior Registrar	6	33,423	200,538
School Assistant Grade 3	59	11,377	671,243
School Assistant Grade 2	160	10,707	1,713,120

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

<u>Designation</u>	<u>No. of Female</u>	<u>Salary Top of Range</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
School Assistant Grade 1	89	9,806	872,734
Science 3	1	25,286	25,286
Science 2	17	21,915	372,555
Science 1	32	19,051	609,632
Sergeant 3rd Class	1	20,783	20,783
Sister	457	13,320	6,087,240
Senior Sister	249	15,212	3,787,788
Senior Tutor Sister Grade 1	2	17,381	34,762
Tutor Sister	11	16,289	179,179
Small Offset Operator Grade 1	6	12,317	73,902
Social Development Officer Grade 2	1	14,987	14,987
Social Development Officer Grade 1	21	12,797	268,737
Social Worker Class 3	1	22,338	22,338
Social Worker Class 2	4	20,315	81,260
Social Worker Class 1	2	18,072	36,144
Specialist	3	45,061	135,183
Speech Therapist Class 3	1	21,906	21,906
Speech Therapist Class 2	4	19,545	78,180
Speech Therapist Class 1	1	17,174	17,174
Senior Storeman	3	11,867	35,601
Senior Technical Officer Grade 1	1	19,325	19,325
Senior Technical Officer (Science) Grade 1	1	19,325	19,325
Technical Officer (Medical Laboratory) Grade 2	4	17,941	71,764
Technical Officer Grade 1	9	16,600	149,400
Technical Officer (Medical Laboratory) Grade 1	12	16,600	199,200
Trainee Technical Officer	6	13,029	78,174
Technical Assistant Grade 2	19	14,254	270,826
Technical Assistant Grade 1	6	12,709	76,254
Theatre Assistant	2	12,399	24,798
Town Planner Class 2	1	26,093	26,093
Town Planner Class 1	1	23,034	23,034
Tradesman	35	13,446	470,610
Travel Officer Grade 2	6	14,648	87,888
Travel Officer Grade 1	20	12,622	252,440
Veterinary Officer Class 2	1	26,093	26,093
X-ray Attendant	3	10,831	32,493
TOTAL	5,161		70,797,127

Average: \$ 13,718

2. This information is not available.

Housing Commission Rental Rebates

514 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What percentage of Housing Commission tenants are in receipt of rental rebate on public housing?
2. How many tenants receive the full rebate?
3. What proportion of tenants receiving rebates are pensioners or social security recipients?
4. How many public servants are in receipt of rental rebate?
5. Are any public servants at executive level in receipt of rental rebate?

ANSWER

1. 28%.
2. All rebate tenants are on full rebates applicable to their income.
3. 98% of tenants receiving rebates are pensioners or social security recipients.
4. Four applications have been received and are being processed.
5. No.

Allocation of Public Housing

515 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for out-of-turn allocation of public housing from 31 October 1980 to 1 September 1981 were (a) received, (b) accepted, and (c) rejected?
2. How many applicants whose applications were accepted or rejected were in receipt of (a) supporting parent benefit, (b) unemployment benefit, (c) other pensions, and (d) were one income families?

ANSWER

1. Inquiries 321; cases investigated 50; cases approved 31; cases rejected 19.
 2. Cases approved - SPB 13; UEB 4; pensions 6; employed 8.
 3. Cases rejected - SPB 4; UEB 2; pensions 2; employed 11.
- Figures are not kept on one income families.

Petrol Sniffing in NT

518 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Will he provide details on the prevalence of petrol sniffing in the Northern Territory?
2. What action, if any, is being taken to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing?

ANSWER

1. No overall survey of petrol sniffing prevalence has been undertaken throughout the Northern Territory. Therefore no specific details are available.
2. Action being taken to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing involves:
 - (a) a research program by Dr Eastwell of the University of Queensland;
 - (b) research by Mr Haywood-Ryan of Department of Community Development;and
 - (c) use of a widely publicized film on the Pitjantjatjara.

Petrol sniffing is an indication of social break-down and as such is more the direct concern of welfare agencies especially the Department of Community Development. My department is actively providing medical advice to affected communities and involved welfare workers.

Central Health Office

521 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What functions of the central office of the Department of Health could more appropriately be carried out by regional offices?

ANSWER

The functions of central office that could be carried out more appropriately by the regions are operational activities. Central office's prime role should be that of policy development and operational oversight.

Rationalisation of Health Services

522 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the light of the new health charges, he said he would reduce staffing at the Casuarina Hospital and close a ward in order to obtain possible savings, and he also spoke of reviewing community health centres. How will health services be rationalised to take account of these changes?

ANSWER

The reduction in staffing at Casuarina Hospital and the closure of a ward were not made in the light of the new health charges.

The operation of all hospitals is kept under constant review by hospital staff with the aim of ensuring efficient functioning. The average occupancy at Casuarina Hospital was below that generally accepted in Australia as an efficient operation, and this was the reason for the closure of the ward. Staff reductions do lead to savings.

Consultants' Fees for Hospital Services

524 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what specific purposes have the allocations of \$76,000 for consultants' fees for hospital services and \$38,000 in health services been made?
2. In 1980-81, (a) how many consultants were employed, (b) for what purposes, and (c) what payments were made to each consultant?

ANSWER

1. The 1981-82 allocations for consultants fees have been provided for the following purposes:

<u>Hospitals:</u>	Doctors - Sessional Fees	\$ 38,000
	- Visiting Specialists	\$ 17,000
	Computer Consultants	\$ 21,000
		<u>\$ 76,000</u>
<u>Health Services:</u>	Doctors - Sessional Fees	\$ 7,000
	Dentists	\$ 30,000
	Physiotherapists	\$ 1,000
		<u>\$ 38,000</u>

2. During 1980-81 various doctors, dentists, and physiotherapists provided sessional and visiting-specialist services.

In addition, 2 firms of computer consultants were employed. One undertook a nursing utilisation study; while the other prepared a hospital admissions system.

3. Consultants' fees payments to doctors, dentists, and physiotherapists, for sessional and visiting-specialist services, amounted to \$90,351 for the year.

Payments to computer consultants during 1980-81 were as follows:

Community Systems Foundation	\$ 17,052
IBM Australia Ltd	\$ 3,234.

Health Department Debt Collectors

525 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many debt collectors are to be employed as a consequence of the new health charges?
2. What is the 1981-82 budget allocation for their employment?

ANSWER

1. Following advertisements for expression of interest for collection of the department's outstanding debts, a debt collecting agency has been appointed. There are no plans to employ salaried debt collectors.
2. No provision for salaries has been made in the 1981-82 budget allocations. Payment to the debt collection agency will be based on a percentage of debts collected.

Health Charges

526 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

He stated that emphasis would be placed on debtors who can afford to pay health charges rather than those who cannot. How does he expect this differentiation to be made?

ANSWER

Accounts will be raised for all patients who do not hold a current health care card issued by the Department of Social Security. Health care cards are automatically issued to unemployment and special beneficiaries and, on application subject to satisfactory evidence, to people on low incomes, pensioners, migrants and refugees.

NT Patients Transferred Interstate

528 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What are the details of the medical agreements under which NT patients can be transferred to each state?
2. How much was spent and on how many patients under each scheme during 1980-81?
3. How much has been allocated in this year's budget?

ANSWER

1. There are no medical agreements relating to transfer of patients interstate. There are 3 schemes operating in the Northern Territory under which patients may be transferred. These are, (a) IPTAAS, a Commonwealth scheme; (b) an informal arrangement with specialist hospitals in other states; and (c) an informal arrangement with South Australia for mental health patients.

2. The Commonwealth government meets costs incurred under IPTAAS. The Northern Territory assists by advancing money in some cases - this is recovered when refunds are paid to patients.

Medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention cost \$163,660.62 during 1980-81.

The cost of transferring mental health patients and providing for their treatment and maintenance was \$457,137.32 for 1980-81.

3. The budget allocation for 1981-82 for items in 2. above is \$1,220,000.

Outpatients Services

531 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he expect any increase in the use of outpatients departments as a consequence of the new health charges? If so, are there any plans to upgrade the services of outpatients and in what way?

ANSWER

Figures to date have shown no overall increase in the usage of outpatients departments since the introduction of the new health charges. Consequently there are no current plans to upgrade the services which are considered adequate.

Private Hospital in Darwin

536 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many tenders have been received for establishing a private hospital in Darwin?

ANSWER

One tender has been received for establishing a private hospital in Darwin.

School Dental Therapists

539 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many rural areas are covered by school dental therapists in mobile teams?
2. How many areas are not covered?
3. When does he expect the service to extend to those presently not covered?

ANSWER

The Department of Health currently offers dental services to 85% of all rural school children and by the end of term this year it is expected that this figure will be 100%. The department uses an economical mix of both mobile dentists and dental therapists with increasing emphasis upon the training and use of Aboriginal health workers within their communities.

Occupational Health Service

540 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Of whom is the occupational health service comprised?
2. What are its main functions?
3. How does it carry these out?
4. What was its expenditure in 1980-81?
5. What is its allocation for 1981-82?

ANSWER

1. The occupational health services of the Department of Health are based on the Occupational Health Branch of the Environmental Health Division, supplemented by the activities of regional staff and use of regional facilities.

Following recent re-organisation the Branch comprises:

- Professional Level 4 (Physicist)

- Medical Officer Class 2 (Post-graduate qualifications in occupational health)
 - A9 (Chief Health Surveyor)
 - Senior Health Surveyor (Specially qualified in occupational health)
 - A5
 - A4
 - A3
 - Keyboard Operator
2. Functions of the service are:
- To meet statutory requirements of the Silicosis and Tuberculosis Act
 - Radiation (Safety Control), and Radiographers Registration Acts
 - Radiation safety matters under the Mines Safety Act and Regulations
 - Advisory service on all aspects of occupational health
 - Conduct inspections and investigate complaints
 - Assist in relevant health education
 - Maintain liaison with other government departments and with industry
 - Develop regional occupational health activities.
3. The functions are carried out in 4 ways:
- (i) Medical examinations, particularly chest x-rays as required by the legislation or in specific circumstances as requested.
 - (ii) Monitoring of results of surveillance programs, and field checking as required; e.g., as in uranium mining.
 - (iii) Field inspections of work places, and inspection and approval of specified equipment; e.g., irradiating apparatus.
 - (iv) Extensive liaison with other government agencies having related statutory responsibilities, with industry and with national bodies.
4. Expenditure by the branch in 1980-81 was \$147,713. This costing does not include activities performed on a regional basis, such as chest x-rays or hearing screening.
5. The budget allocation for 1981-82 is the same as for 1980-81.

Expenditure on Community Welfare

542 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Could he itemise how much was expended in 1980-81 and how much has been allocated in 1981-82 in the following areas of Community Welfare (a) substitute care for children, (b) youth services, (c) family services, (d) income maintenance, (e) subsidies and grants-in-aid to community organisations engaged in welfare services, (f) community work, (g) policy and planning, (h) information, (j) ethnic affairs, (k) administration, and (m) handicapped persons?
- Can an itemisation of allocation under each program be provided where possible with details of which organisations received grants-in-aid? How many unsuccessful applications were there? When was the closing date of applications for grants-in-aid and when were these organisations notified of their funding?
2. What is being allocated in cash in 1981-82 and for which Aboriginal communities under the essential services program of Community Government? What are the proposed new projects?
3. Could he detail where the 400 Aborigines employed within their own communities on the construction of essential services are?
4. How much has been allocated in 1981-82 for the introduction and develop-

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

- ment of community government councils? Are any community government councils to be established and, if so, where?
5. Could he provide details of the budget allocation in 1981-82 for community services in the 4 divisions?
 6. Who is receiving grants-in-aid in Arts and Cultural Affairs and Youth, Sport and Recreation, and how much?
 7. When was the closing date for such applications and when were the successful organisations notified of their funding?
 8. How many successful grants-in-aid applications were there in 1981-82 for these sections?

ANSWER

1. The following tables detail the information requested.

AREAS OF EXPENDITURE

<u>Substitute Care</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 175,812.18	\$ 155,000
Travel	\$ 4,902.69	\$ 5,000
Payroll tax	\$ 6,744.07	\$ 7,000
Communications	\$ 5,291.06	\$ 6,000
General services	\$ 12,785.91	\$ 13,000
Other administrative expenses	\$ 21,037.21	\$ 9,000
TOTAL	\$ 226,573.12	\$ 195,000

<u>Youth Services</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 575,445.70	\$ 600,000
Travel	\$ 13,738.99	\$ 15,000
Payroll tax	\$ 23,353.69	\$ 27,000
Communications	\$ 12,905.16	\$ 15,000
General services	\$ 44,245.45	\$ 50,000
Other administrative expenses	\$ 109,324.52	\$ 91,000
TOTAL	\$ 779,013.51	\$ 798,000

<u>Family Services</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 226,219.66	\$ 324,000
Travel	\$ 17,126.73	\$ 20,000
Payroll tax	\$ 10,014.10	\$ 15,000
Communications	\$ 6,654.94	\$ 10,000
General services	\$ 15,327.10	\$ 16,000
Other administrative expenses	\$ 22,127.98	\$ 10,000
TOTAL	\$ 297,470.60	\$ 395,000

<u>Income Maintenance</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 693,914.20	* \$ 260,000
Travel	\$ 48,973.55	\$ 5,000
Payroll tax	\$ 40,677.43	\$ 12,000
Communications	\$ 33,203.30	--
General services	\$ 8,933.89	--
Other administrative expenses	\$ 117,404.80	\$ 47,000
TOTAL	\$ 943,107.17	\$ 324,000

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Concessions to pensioners	\$ 443,529.29	\$ 580,000
Child maintenance	\$ 170,232.73	\$ 300,000
Financial assistance	\$ 407,959.05	\$ 332,000
Supporting parents benefits	\$ 285,200.63	Nil
Indigent burials	\$ 83,481.90	\$ 75,000
TOTAL	\$1,390,403.60	\$1,287,000

* A high proportion of salaries allocations previously shown against the Income Maintenance Program has been transferred to other more relevant division programs in the 1981-82 budget.

<u>Subsidies Unit</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 41,550.80	\$ 73,000
Travel	\$ 8,594.94	\$ 10,000
Payroll tax	\$ 2,424.33	\$ 3,000
Communications	\$ 6.92	--
General services	\$ 1,100.00	--
Other administrative expenses	\$ 13,123.62	\$ 11,000
TOTAL	\$ 66,800.61	\$ 97,000
Subsidies and Grants-in-Aid Payments	\$1,151,609.65	\$1,063,000

<u>Aboriginal Community Work</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 305,598.14	\$ 526,000
Travel	\$ 56,267.40	\$ 60,000
Payroll tax	\$ 14,969.36	\$ 15,000
Communications	\$ 1,679.59	\$ 2,000
General services	\$ 466.41	--
Other administrative expenses	\$ 29,869.81	\$ 8,000
TOTAL	\$ 408,850.71	\$ 611,000

* Community work for other than Aborigines is carried out as a component of many of the division programs and separate figures are not available.

<u>Policy, Planning and *Information</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 279,446.06	\$ 258,000
Travel	\$ 13,336.84	\$ 20,000
Payroll tax	\$ 12,089.39	\$ 12,000
Communications	\$ 4,747.47	\$ 6,000
General services	\$ 1,527.03	\$ 2,000
Other administrative expenses	\$ 55,291.35	\$ 38,000
TOTAL	\$ 366,438.14	\$ 336,000

* Separate figures for this component are not available.

<u>Ethnic Affairs</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 63,747.89	\$ 77,000
Travel	\$ 3,859.56	\$ 5,000
Payroll tax	2,836.89	\$ 4,000
Communications	\$ 1,505.59	\$ 1,500
General services	\$ 445.20	--
Other administrative expenses	\$ 8,585.81	\$ 11,500
TOTAL	\$ 80,980.94	\$ 99,000

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

<u>Administration</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 514,454.94	\$ 549,000
Travel	\$ 14,029.70	\$ 15,000
Payroll tax	\$ 32,406.77	\$ 25,000
Communications	\$ 6,050.98	\$ 7,000
General services	\$ 762.47	\$ 1,000
Other administrative expenses	\$ 120,885.46	\$ 71,000
TOTAL	\$ 688,590.32	\$ 668,000

<u>Handicapped Persons</u>	<u>Expenditure 80-81</u>	<u>Allocation 81-82</u>
Salaries	\$ 26,669.14	\$ 49,000
Travel	\$ 24,161.82	\$ 25,000
Payroll tax	\$ 790.21	\$ 3,000
Communications	\$ 485.03	\$ 500
General services	\$ 105.90	---
Other administrative expenses	\$ 27,130.43	\$ 7,500
TOTAL	\$ 79,342.53	\$ 85,000

1980-81 GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
---------------------	---------------

Residential Care Funding Program

1. St Marys Child and Family Welfare Services, Alice Springs	227,574.00
2. Retta Dixon Homes, Darwin	11,623.00
3. Somerville Homes Inc., Darwin	126,000.00

Community Welfare Worker Subsidy Scheme

1. Yirrkala/Dhanbul Community Association Inc.	13,431.52
2. YWCA, Darwin	13,933.49
3. Catholic Church, Alice Springs	13,933.49
4. 1979-80 Arrears of payments on Social Worker Subsidy Scheme	17,312.96
5. Galiwinku Community Inc.	7,129.75
6. Catholic Church, Darwin	13,848.35

Organisation

Youth Service Program

1. YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	55,600.00
--	-----------

Annual Grants-in-Aid Scheme

1. Bindi Centre Residential Facility	67,083.08
2. St Vincent de Paul, Katherine for Giles Street Shelter	14,000.00
3. Australian Association of Special Education, NT Branch	1,152.00
4. YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	990.00
5. Darwin Family Centres, Fun Bus Project	700.00
6. Australian Red Cross Society, Darwin Branch	600.00
7. NT Pensioners Association on behalf of Tracey Lodge	10,000.00
8. Australian Red Cross Society, Tennant Creek Branch for Noble House Old Timers Home	8,000.00
9. Aust. Red Cross Society, Katherine Branch, Old Timers Home	8,000.00
10. Australian Inland Mission, Old Timers Home, Alice Springs	8,000.00
11. St Vincent de Paul Society, Darwin	7,000.00
12. Salvation Army, Darwin	5,200.00
13. St Vincent de Paul Society, Alice Springs	14,000.00
14. Tennant Creek Community Development Council	5,000.00
15. NT Pensioner Association	300.00

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

16. Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre (Money repaid)	6,685.00
<u>Family Support Services Scheme</u>	
1. YMCA, Darwin	28,218.79
2. Evaluation Project	16,000.00
3. Salvation Army, Darwin	12,326.76
4. YWCA, Darwin	4,400.00
5. Darwin Family Centres	9,529.10
6. Central Australian Aboriginal Congress	37,674.00
8. Aboriginal Resource Centre	2,089.79
<u>International Year of the Child Scheme</u>	
1. Browns Mart	11,240.00
2. Darwin Toy Library	708.85
3. Darwin Family Centres	18,860.00
4. Jabiru Playgroup	2,380.00
5. Galiwinku Community	4,500.00
6. Corporation of Katherine	10,000.00
7. Anthelk Ewlpaye	4,830.00
8. Areyonga Housing Association	7,000.00
9. Coconut Development School	25,000.00
10. Lyappa Congress	1,111.00
<u>International Year of Disabled Person</u>	
1. ANSUA, Darwin	2,200.00
2. Uniting Church	200.00
3. Alice Springs Spastic Council	10,000.00
4. NT Spastic Council	5,858.33
5. Mark Davies	5,412.00
6. Somerville Homes	8,299.11
7. Downs Syndrome	4,935.00
8. Mr and Mrs Barraclough	1,200.00
9. Michel Gastagna	500.00
10. Casuarina Girl Guides	475.00
11. Central Australian Toy Library	2,000.00
12. Family Planning Association	2,429.00
13. NT Handicapped Persons	5,000.00
<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	\$
<u>Ethnic Childrens Services Worker Scheme</u>	
1. Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre	16,000.00
<u>Childrens Services Program</u>	
1. NTCOSS for Childrens Work	2,000.00
<u>States Grants (Home Care) Program</u>	
1. Alice Springs Emergency Home Help Association	14,000.00
2. Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	14,000.00
3. Darwin Red Cross Home Help Services	36,000.00
4. Bamyili Community Council	3,250.00
5. Tennant Creek Pensioners Association (Capital Grant)	90,000.00
6. NT Pensioners Association (Capital Grant)	45,000.00
1979-80 Arrears payments for Home Help Services	5,386.28
7. Lajamanu Council	6,500.00
<u>Operational Subsidies of a Continuous Nature</u>	
1. Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	8,000.00
2. Handicapped Persons Association of Northern Territory	10,000.00

Unsuccessful Applicants for Grant-in-Aid 1980-81

NTCOSS

Corporation of the City of Darwin
NT Spastic Association
Central Australian Aboriginal Housing Forum
Stella Maris Centre, Apostleship of the Sea
Darwin Family Centre
National Council of Women
Northern Y Women
Alice Springs Spastic Council
Marriage Guidance Council
Somerville Homes
YWCA
Katherine Red Cross

Grants-in-Aid 1980-81

Notification was sent out in October 1980. Closing date for applications was 14 December 1979 with the Community Service Division.

Grants-in-Aid 1981-82

Closing date for applications was 28 February 1981. Notification was made in November 1981.

2. The Aboriginal Essential Services Capital Works Program for which the Department of Community Development is responsible appears at pages 8 to 19 in Budget Paper No. 5, 1981-82. Works in progress were valued at \$12,678,189 whilst new works programmed were valued at \$14,420,000. (Total cash available to the program at this stage is \$14,130,000). The individual projects are listed in the Budget Paper No. 5 and are too numerous to list in this answer).

An amount of \$5.43m cash has been provided for repairs and maintenance throughout the Northern Territory.

The Commonwealth government has in its Aboriginal Public Health Improvement Program provided further cash of \$1,865,000.

3. The actual number of Aboriginals employed on the construction of essential services at any particular point of time varies depending on a number of factors, including the number of contracts let, the type of work to be carried out, and the time of the year. The figure of 400, which was provided in answer to a similar question asked by Mr Isaacs in May 1981, was an assessment of the number of Aboriginals employed in carrying out such work at that time.

At present, due largely to the onset of the wet season, and a consequent reduction of work, it is estimated that the number of Aboriginals employed on the construction of essential services is approximately 270. It is expected that the number will rise again with the arrival of the dry season.

Communities where Aboriginals are currently working on such contracts are Amoonguna, Areyonga, Docker River, Santa Teresa, Willowra, Elliott, Angurugu, Belyuen, Nauiyu Ukume, Kulaluk, Galiwinku, Pularumpi, Kardu Numida, Milikapiti, Miligimbi, Maningrida, Minjilang, Nguuu, Gunbalanya, Peppiminarti, Ramingining, Umbakumba and Warruwi.

4. There is a sum of \$169,000 allocated in 1981-82 financial year for the introduction of community government councils.

There are 3 communities for which schemes have been prepared to exhibition stage. These communities are Angurugu, Milikapiti and

Pularumpi. Schemes are being prepared for other communities and will reach exhibition stage after consultations have been concluded.

5. It is assumed that this question should read, "Could the Minister provide details of the budget allocation in 1981-82 for Community Services Division in the 4 sub-divisions?", to which the answer is:

Salaries	\$ 1,906,000
Administration	\$ 958,000
Capital	\$ 79,000
Other services	\$ 3,498,000.

6. Due to the nature of the Community Services Grants-in-Aid scheme it is very difficult to provide a list of recipients of grants until the end of the financial year. At present 319 applications for grants-in-aid have been received from community organisations.

Applications for grants-in-aid can request assistance in the areas of administration, salary subsidy, equipment, training-coaching, facilities, travel and special projects.

Any incorporated, non-profit community organisation is eligible to apply.

7. Applications for 1981-82 closed on 17 April, but late applications are often received. If an urgent need is demonstrated the application is processed immediately. Otherwise, applications are assessed progressively. After the Minister gives his decision all organisations are notified as to the outcome of their application.
8. For 1981-82 there have been 319 applications for grants-in-aid received. Of the 319 applications received, the following is a breakdown of their status:

Approved	160
Not approved	50
Withdrawn	10
Deferred	20
Ineligible	5
Under assessment	74
	<u>319</u>

School-to-Work Transition Program

543 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has there been an evaluation of the school-to-work transition program in the Northern Territory? If so, what was the nature of the evaluation and the results? If not, is an evaluation planned?
2. In 1980-81 how many students, at what level of education, were involved in the school-to-work program?
3. How many teachers, for how many hours per week and where, were involved?
4. Where did the students go for their work experience? In what numbers?
5. What increase and expansion of the program is planned for 1981-82 with the significantly increased funding allocation? How many students will it cater for? Which schools are to receive cash grants and how much?

ANSWER

1. Evaluation of the school-to-work transition program is in hand pro-

gressively. For 1980-81 an evaluation study has been made covering work experience, link courses, career education programs, special year 11 transition classes and foundation for employment (post-school) courses.

The evaluation demonstrated positive benefits flowing from the transition program and results of that study will be widely distributed early in 1982.

2. Students involved in the school-to-work program were -

<u>1980</u>	Work experience	-	Years 10 and 11	-	840
	Career education	-	Years 9 and 10	-	500
	Link courses	-	Year 11	-	168
<u>1981</u>	Work experience	-	Years 10 and 11	-	830
	Career education	-	Years 9 and 10	-	543
	Link courses	-	Year 11	-	87

Regulatory and Advisory Council Meetings

544 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Regulatory and Advisory Council meetings for schools are expected in 1981-82? What is the average cost per meeting?

ANSWER

It is assumed that the Regulatory and Advisory Council meetings referred to are: Post School Advisory Council, Education Advisory Council, Special Education Advisory Committee, and Northern Territory Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (FEPEI).

The 2 councils are constituted in accordance with the Education Act and meet on approximately 6 occasions per year.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets 3 times per year and on other special occasions with prior approval.

All the above meetings are normally of 2 days duration.

FEPEI usually meets each quarter and these meetings are generally of 4 to 5 days duration.

The estimated cost for each proposed meeting held in Darwin in 1981-82 is: Post School Advisory Council \$4,000; Education Advisory Council \$3,000; FEPEI \$3,600; and Special Education Advisory Committee \$2,000.

Buffalo Domestication

548 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many buffaloes in the Northern Territory are domesticated?
2. How many have been domesticated since the buffalo symposium of February 1980?

ANSWER

1. It is estimated that at the present time there are about 3,000 domesticated buffaloes in the Northern Territory.
2. Most of the above-mentioned buffaloes have been domesticated since the symposium.

Library Service Book Purchases

551 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What was (a) the value of books purchased by the Northern Territory

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Library Service since 1 February 1981, (b) from which suppliers or book-sellers were these purchases made, both Territory and interstate, (c) is the Library Service still purchasing books direct from publishers, and (d) what was the total expenditure by the Library Service on book purchases in the financial year 1980-81?

ANSWER

(a) Value of books purchased by Northern Territory Library Service during the period February 1981 to December 1981 inclusive was \$355,393.

(b) (i) Northern Territory Suppliers

Bookworld	\$ 25,865
Northbooks	\$ 74,636
Educational and Technical Books	\$ 20,898
Territory Book Depot	\$ 9,735
Paul France	\$ 4,395
Singing Tree	\$ 11,089
Aboriginal Arts and Crafts	\$ 256
Arunta Art Gallery	\$ 76
Corey Books	\$ 40
*Department of the Chief Minister	\$ 41
*Government Information Centre	\$ 24
Darwin Newsagency	\$ 169
Tivoli Bookshop	\$ 1,599
NT Nautical Supplies	\$ 186
*Maningrida Literature Production Centre	\$ 5
*Delta Productions	\$ 250
*Summer Institute of Linguistics	\$ 22
*Warlipiri Literature Production Centre	\$ 246
*NT Field Naturalists Club	\$ 8
*Darwin Community College	\$ 160
TOTAL	\$ 149,700

(ii) Interstate Suppliers

James Bennett	\$ 51,170
Grahames	\$ 59,230
Dunn & Mason	\$ 48,067
Ayres & James	\$ 2,983
Berkelouw	\$ 1,659
Serendipity	\$ 779
Burge Lopez & Craft	\$ 1,348
Hearn	\$ 230
Gaston Renard	\$ 1,838
Mary Martin	\$ 114
W.H. Thompson	\$ 123
Continental Bookshop	\$ 1,405
Southern Scene	\$ 1,317
Bookshelf	\$ 204
K. Ainsworth	\$ 165
Kay Craddock	\$ 21
*Department of National Development & Energy	\$ 82
*Encyclopedia Britannica	\$ 3,282
*Keith Cole Productions	\$ 3
*LAA Special Libraries Victoria	\$ 15
*Oceania	\$ 141
*National Library	\$ 44
*Shire of Port Hedland	\$ 17
*Pacific Linguistics	\$ 188

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

*Australian Library Promotion Council	\$	25
*Unicef	\$	24
*Dutch/Australia Publishing Co.	\$	23
*Australian Government Publishing Service	\$	85
*Remal	\$	101
*WA Museum	\$	44
*James Cook University	\$	13
*State Library of South Australia	\$	98
*Lutheran Publishing House	\$	14
*CCH	\$	134
*Library Board of WA	\$	15
*Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies	\$	176
TOTAL	\$	<u>175,177</u>

(iii) Overseas Suppliers

Combridge Jackson	\$	<u>30,516</u>
-------------------	----	---------------

- (c) The Northern Territory Library Service still purchases books direct from publishers when this is financially advantageous. As will be seen from the suppliers listed in (b)(i) and (b)(ii) above, the publishers who are indicated by an asterisk are primarily government departments and authorities and publishers such as Encyclopedia Britannica who do not deal through the retail book trade. If Northern Territory Library Service were to purchase official (i.e., government) publications through the book trade it would cost more because no discounts are given to booksellers who would then have to charge an on-cost.
- (d) The total expenditure by the Northern Territory Library Service on book purchases in the financial year 1980-81 was \$406,990.

Queensland Mines Yellowcake

552 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is he able to say whether or not Queensland Mines Limited has been paid for its yellowcake that has already been exported?
2. Can he advise the whereabouts of the first shipment of yellowcake that left Darwin in the vessel 'Mayflower'?

ANSWER

1. Under existing arrangements Queensland Mines Limited is due for payment for its uranium oxide product on dispatch from Australia. I understand that the arrangements have been observed in regard to all product exported to date.
2. Uranium oxide is transported through Singapore for treatment processing (conversion and enrichment) in Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom or Europe, depending on the capacity of each country to accept the product.

After dispatch from the Northern Territory it may take up to 2 years for the processed product to reach its final destination in Japan.

The international movement of uranium oxide is a matter for the Australian Safeguards Office. In the interest of international security, the whereabouts of particular shipments at any particular time is classified information, not available for public record or general release.

Buffalo Domestication

554 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is it the intention of the government to introduce legislation for the control of or encouragement of domestication of buffalo?
2. What progress has been made towards domestication of buffalo to this point?

ANSWER

1. The government has no intention, at this time, to regulate the buffalo industry, outside of already existing regulations.
2. I refer the honourable Leader of the Opposition to my answer to question No. 548.

Market for Donkey Meat

555 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has his department undertaken any investigation into potential markets for donkey meat and, if so, what are the results of such investigations?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production has undertaken investigation into potential markets for donkey meat.

The conclusions are that the prices available for donkey meat, the yields of donkey meat which may be obtained, and the costs of harvesting, processing and marketing the product, does not make donkey meat production an attractive possibility.

Bali Cattle Research Project

556 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. On what advice did the government make its decision to cancel the Bali cattle research project?
2. What are the details of this advice and source of information?

ANSWER

The decision was made based on information and advice supplied by the Department of Primary Production.

Moratorium on the Granting of Prawning Licences

557 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When did the moratorium on the granting of prawning licences to operate between Cape York and Cape Ford end?

ANSWER

The moratorium on the granting of prawning licences for the Declared Management Zone (DMZ) of the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) which runs between Cape Ford and Cape York is still in effect.

ADMA Crop Purchase Scheme

558 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Does the ADMA crop purchase scheme apply to crops totalling less than 5 tonnes?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

ANSWER

The ADMA has not set a minimum quantity of grain to be received at either the Katherine depot or at Adelaide River. The Authority recognises the necessity of catering for growers with small quantities of grains as an incentive for them to expand production over time.

NTEC Transferees

559 Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How many compulsory transferees from the NTPS to NTEC have applied for transfer or promotion back to NTPS?
2. How many employees have succeeded in transferring back from NTEC to NTPS?

ANSWER

1. No records are held of transfers requested and not successful. This information would be confidential to the applicant.
2. Of the 600 compulsory transferees to NTEC on 1 July 1978 the following transfers have taken place: (a) to the APS - 22; (b) to the NTPS - 34. This information is derived from recruitment records.

Northern Prawn Fishery

560 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given that the northern prawn fishery is heavily dependent upon Japan for the sale of its production and that the price for prawns sold to Japan has fallen considerably recently, what efforts have been made by the government to search out and secure new markets for Territory prawns?

ANSWER

The marketing of prawns taken in the northern prawn fishery has been almost entirely carried out by the various processing companies involved. Recent discussions with the processors have indicated that they prefer to continue developing their own market outlets.

Processing of NT Prawns

561 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. Is he aware that many prawns caught in Territory waters are shipped to Western Australia where they are processed and then returned to be sold in Darwin?
2. If so, what action has he taken to enable more prawns caught in Territory waters to be processed in the Territory for the local market?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The information obtained from local retailers is that the local market is adequately supplied with processed prawns.

Buffalo Industry Conference

562 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Since the Buffalo Industry Conference in February 1981, what action has the government taken to encourage a viable buffalo industry in the Top End?

ANSWER

Considerable progress has been made in the domestication of buffaloes, and a great deal of information is now available to assist private enterprise in the establishment of buffalo projects.

Additional support has been given through the introduction of compensation for buffaloes in which tuberculosis is detected at NT abattoirs under the National Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign.

Brucellosis and TB on Aboriginal Leases

563 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he publicly declare Aboriginal-owned pastoral leases to be more prone to the incidence of brucellosis and tuberculosis?

ANSWER

If there has been such a public declaration the honourable Member will no doubt be able to find it.

Travel by Minister for Mines and Energy

565 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the answer to question 111 and ask what is the nature of the 'official business' conducted by the Minister for Mines and Energy on the trip undertaken on 9 July 1979 at a cost of \$748?

ANSWER

The nature of the 'official business' conducted by the Minister for Mines and Energy on the trip undertaken on 9 July 1979 was to meet with the President, Ali-Curung Council, Warrabri (Mr Gus Williams), to hold discussions with the Ali-Curung Council about the NT liquor legislation and to visit the Community Health Centre at Warrabri.

Land Rights Inquiry

566 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Why did the NT government decline to make submission to the Commonwealth inquiry into the operation of the Land Rights (NT) Act?

ANSWER

The NT government did not present a formal submission to Mr Rowland but he had a number of discussions with Ministers and departmental officers. It should be noted that the Northern Land Council provided no formal submission, but no doubt its officers were also available for discussions. It was obvious that before there would be any changes there would have to be consultation between both governments and the land councils. The NT government considered it would be preferable to raise its problems at a government to government level, which it did.

Panorama Guth in Alice Springs

567 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has any action been taken by the Museums and Art Galleries Board to acquire Panorama Guth in Alice Springs, or any of the material therein?

ANSWER

Discussion has occurred between Mr Guth and a member of the Museums and Art Galleries Board staff. As a consequence, the Aboriginal collections in Panorama Guth have been documented and photographed. Mr Guth has

indicated that he wishes to sell Panorama Guth as a total entity. The Museums and Art Galleries Board would only be interested in acquiring the Aboriginal material because it is secret or sacred. It does not regard the building and the panorama as being an appropriate acquisition to its display facilities and the permanent art collection of the Northern Territory.

Tender Approvals - Progress Associations

568 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Ti Tree Progress Association, or any other progress association in the Northern Territory, been given the right to approve of tenders allocated by NT government departments?
2. If so, under what terms and conditions do such approvals operate?

ANSWER

No progress association in the Northern Territory has been given the authority to approve tenders allocated by NT government departments.

As the honourable Member for MacDonnell has specifically mentioned the Ti Tree Progress Association, I should perhaps clarify a point.

Funds were provided to the Ti Tree Progress Association for the provision of municipal services to the town.

The association successfully negotiated a contract with a separate body to have the town cleaned up. I believe there is a vast difference between the simple contractual action taken by the Ti Tree Progress Association and the implied meaning which specifically refers to tenders allocated by NT government departments.

Giles House

569 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will Giles House continue to be used as a substitute care residential facility pending its reclassification as a juvenile corrective institution?
2. If not, will the government provide an alternative facility for the purpose of substitute care of children awaiting placement?
3. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Giles House is an institution designed for the detention of juvenile offenders and is currently utilised for that purpose. A principle which has been recognised and widely accepted by child welfare authorities throughout the western world is that children committed to the care of welfare authorities for reasons other than offending should not be detained in the same institutions and under the same conditions as juvenile offenders. This principle holds no matter how good the programs may be within the institution concerned and, in the case of Giles House, the program is widely recognised to be of the highest quality.
2. In Alice Springs the Department of Community Development funds St Mary's Child and Family Welfare Services for the provision of substitute care services through its family homes. St Mary's has a long history of involvement in the provision of substitute care services and the government regards the partnership between St Mary's and the department as being a highly suitable arrangement for the provision of these

services. Currently 3 family homes are funded by the department and these are seen as offering quite adequate capacity for future needs.

3. Not applicable.

Tourism and Heritage Conference

570 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Was his department approached to support the Tourism and Heritage Conference scheduled for March 1982?
2. If so, will his department support it and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. No. Basically the conference program appears to be oriented towards tourism, the natural environment and Aboriginal cultural issues.

I understand the conference is being financially supported by the Department of the Chief Minister, Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, and Northern Territory Tourist Commission, which is a good measure of Northern Territory government support for the conference.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal Arts Board are also involved.

In the circumstances, I do not consider it necessary or appropriate that the conference be supported by the Department of Community Development.

Mortality Specifics

571 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does his department (a) compile age-specific mortality statistics, and (b) if so, will he release them publicly?

ANSWER

Compilation of age-specific mortality statistics is not a function of the Department of Health but is undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which receives information directly from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics releases information on deaths for each of the states and territories in an annual publication titled 'Deaths Australia' (ABS catalogue no. 3302.0).

Outpatient Treatment at Alice Springs Hospital

572 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people seeking outpatient treatment at Alice Springs Hospital during the 12 months ending October 1981 had suffered injury through broken glass?

ANSWER

Statistics relating to injuries through broken glass are not kept in Alice Springs Hospital. Outpatient attendances are classified according to groups such as motor vehicle accidents, domestic violence, gynaecology, etc.

Community at Kintore Ranges

573 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements has his department made to service the community at the Kintore Ranges?

ANSWER

The community at Kintore Ranges receives health care through the Lyappa medical service from Papunya. This is at the request of the Kintore Range community. Although the department does not provide any direct health service, the Alice Springs Hospital provides support services to all central Australian residents regardless of which organisation supplies primary health care.

Caravans at Ti Tree School

574 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many caravans were supplied to the Ti Tree School for the Aboriginal Adult Education Program and at what cost?
2. Where are the caravans now and for what purpose are they being used?
3. When were the caravans moved?

ANSWER

1. Twenty caravans were located at Ti Tree for the purpose of establishing in the southern region a facility for providing the first year of an Aboriginal teacher training course, the cost involved being \$75,000.
2. & 3. All of the caravans have now been relocated. This process started in February 1979 and was completed in October 1981 when the last 2 caravans were sold at auction.

Set out below are details of each caravan's relocation:

1. Tennant Creek Area School - teacher accommodation.
2. Kurrajong, outstation of Utopia - teacher accommodation.
3. Tennant Creek - Karguru - teacher accommodation.
4. Willowra - teacher accommodation.
5. Alice Springs - mobile reading centre.
6. Ida Standley - mobile pre-school.
7. Mt Ebenezer - teacher accommodation.
8. Braitling - janitor accommodation.
9. Amaroo, outstation of Utopia - teacher accommodation.
10. Yirara - teacher accommodation.
11. & 12. Sold by tender 21 October 1981.
13. - 17. Relocated to Darwin - janitor accommodation on school sites.
18. - 20. Transferred to Health Department, Alice Springs.

Apatula Community

575 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will a full-time adult educator be appointed to service the Apatula community?

ANSWER

There has been some difficulty in obtaining a suitably qualified adult educator for the Apatula community. The community has indicated it wants a middle-aged person with a family. The difficulty was further compounded by the lack of suitable accommodation - a difficulty which has only recently been overcome. Despite advertisements throughout the Territory no applicants are available for Apatula. A national advertisement is now being prepared for adult educators and, hopefully, a suitable person willing to work at Apatula can be identified early in the new year.

Pre-apprenticeship Courses for Young Aboriginals

577 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to his press release of 24 March 1981 in which he stated that pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aboriginals were expected to start in July this year and ask (a) why the courses have still not commenced, and (b) why the Priest Street complex remains vacant and apparently in need of renovation?

ANSWER

The reason for the delay in commencing the pre-apprenticeship courses for young Aboriginals at Priest Street which were expected to start in July this year was the difficulty in reaching agreement with the Commonwealth for funding the courses. This has now been resolved and quotations for renovation work were called on 2 December with a closing date of 16 December. Provided a satisfactory contract for this work is achieved and the contractor can commence immediately after the Christmas break, it is expected that the work will be completed by mid-February.

A pre-apprenticeship in automotives will then be able to commence.

Two lecturers have been selected and are expected to arrive in mid-January to commence preparation for the course.

Appropriate equipment has already been ordered by the college.

Housing Commission Dwellings - Tennant Creek

578 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many Housing Commission dwellings will be (a) built in Tennant Creek this year, and (b) how many of these dwellings will be allocated for the use of Aboriginal tenants?

ANSWER

Five houses and 44 units will be constructed this year. Sixteen bed-sitters will be converted to 1 bedroom units.

Aboriginal applicants on the Housing Commission waiting list will be allocated accommodation in their turn in the normal manner.

Purchase of Housing Commission Units and Townhouses

579 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many tenants have purchased or are in the process of purchasing units

and townhouses from the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

A total of 30 tenants are in the process of purchasing townhouse units from the Housing Commission.

Commonwealth Government Purchase of Lots in Sadadeen Subdivision

580 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How many lots in the Sadadeen subdivision have been purchased by the Commonwealth government to provide rental housing stock for its public servants?

ANSWER

The Sadadeen subdivision is being sold privately. The Member should direct his inquiries accordingly.

Tenders for Lease of Esplanade Lodge, Melanka Lodge and Kuringai Lodge

581 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Have tenders been received for a 5-year lease for Esplanade Lodge, Melanka Lodge and Kuringai Lodge?
2. How much space does the government intend to reserve in these places for emergency accommodation and for public servants?

ANSWER

1. The calling of tenders for the lease of the NT hostels has been postponed until March 1982. Because the existing management agreement with Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Service Pty Ltd (CACS) expires on 9 January 1982, I have approved an interim arrangement whereby a local Darwin company will manage the hostels under an agreement similar to that with CACS for the period 10 January 1982 to 30 June 1982.
2. (i) Initially, 10 rooms in the Esplanade Lodge, 4 rooms in Melanka Lodge and 2 rooms in Kuringai Lodge will be reserved for the purpose of providing emergency accommodation at the hostels, under a plan currently being formulated through the Housing Commission and the Department of Community Development.
(ii) Currently 28% of all hostel accommodation is occupied by public servants (both NT and Commonwealth) and at least this amount of accommodation will be reserved for their continuing use under both the interim arrangement to 30 June 1982 and the leasing arrangements after that date. It is intended that the situation be reviewed on a regular basis.

Recruitment of Departmental Staff by P.A. Australia

582 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to question 265 regarding the employment of a private organisation, P.A. Australia, to recruit staff at a cost of \$23,000 and his reply that such companies were employed when particular expertise or staff were not available in the department and that the employment of private companies leads to savings in time and money, and ask -

1. Why have not appropriate staff with the required expertise been recruited by his department, with or without the help of outside companies?
2. How can the spending of \$23,000 lead to savings?

ANSWER

1. As each vacancy arises, a decision is taken as to the best method of attracting the desired calibre of applicants and this may lead to the use of external organisations. During the period March-June 1981, P.A. Australia was used on 2 occasions in Australia-wide searches for staff for the Department of Transport and Works -

(a) Services Division: 7 positions, mainly professional/technical and P.A. were used because of earlier involvement in review of plant operations.

(b) Administration Division: 4 senior positions in Manpower Branch. P.A. were used to seek external applicants on an Australia-wide basis.

Of the 11 positions involved, 5 were filled as a result of P.A. exercise and a further position is still under review.

2. The value in using external consultants lies in the department's ability to use their expert knowledge of selected labour markets, interstate interviewing facilities, and presenting the department with a short list of suitable applicants. Such activities enable departmental staff to concentrate on productive tasks within the department.

The use of consultants is seen as an alternative to, not a replacement for, the utilisation of our own staff as the occasion demands.

Poker Machines in NT

583 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the government commissioned a public opinion survey regarding the possible introduction of poker machines into licensed clubs in the NT, and related matters?

2. If so, (a) which polling organisation conducted the survey, (b) what questions were asked, (c) what were the results, and (d) what was the criteria used to determine the size and composition of the sections of the community such as age, sex, occupation, town of residence and membership of clubs?

ANSWER

As has been explained to the Legislative Assembly on 9 June 1981, a public opinion survey into community attitudes towards racing and gaming in the Territory was conducted as part of research for a review of racing and gaming legislation. Information gathered as part of that research is considered confidential.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign

584 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Why are compensation rates for the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign variable with regard to types of cattle but fixed with regard to quality?

ANSWER

The approved compensation values for cattle slaughtered as a result of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program are shown below.

Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Compensation Scheme
Compensation Values 1 July 1981 to 30 June 1982

Category of Stock	Darwin and Gulf District	Victoria River District	Barkly Tablelands District	Alice Springs
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Cattle</u>				
Calf	35	35	45	45
Weaner	55	55	70	70
Store steer	90	100	110	110
Fat steer	140	155	180	180
Store bullock	110	120	120	120
Fat bullock	160	180	270	270
Breeding cow	85	90	130	130
Fat cow	110	135	180	180
Bulls under 7 years of age	180	180	180	180
Bulls mickey or aged	80	80	80	80
	<u>All Districts</u>			
<u>Buffalo</u>	\$			
Calf	40			
Weaner	100			
Cow	110			
Bull	140			
Heifers	105			

These values are based on the estimated farm-gate value of the types of cattle, and also on market prices. The values vary from district to district because the average weight of cattle marketed varies, and the realised values vary between the districts.

The compensation values have been agreed with the cattlemen's associations as fair and reasonable.

Water Supply to Beswick Station

585 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to provide a good water supply to Beswick Station?

ANSWER

Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works will undertake an investigation to locate an alternative water source at Beswick during the next dry season. A preliminary report will be submitted to the Water Needs Committee on these findings. Should the investigation prove successful, upgrading of the water supply will proceed as proposed on the Forward Works Program for 1983-84.

MacDonnell Range National Park

586 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his reply to my question regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask what if any difficulties have been encountered in the acquisition of land for the park and, if so, when and how will these be overcome?

ANSWER

Negotiations for the acquisition of suitable land in the West MacDonnells

for the creation of a national park have been protracted owing to the need to deal with several landholders, including company holdings where consent is required from all parties. Delays have also been occasioned by the need to muster stock from the rugged and difficult terrain being sought for national park purposes. The Conservation Commission is optimistic that these difficulties can be overcome.

Other acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells.

Flagpoles for NT Schools

587 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he ordered flagpoles to be erected at all schools in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Orders have been arranged through the Department of Transport and Works for flagpoles to be erected at all Northern Territory government buildings including schools. Orders have been placed with suppliers.

NTDC Assistance to Aboriginal Organisations

588 Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to his reply to my question regarding the Northern Territory Development Corporation's response to application for assistance from Aboriginal organisations and ask -

Does the Northern Territory Development Corporation automatically refer applications from Aboriginal organisations to the Aboriginal Development Commission?

ANSWER

Any inquiry from an Aboriginal organisation is referred to the Aboriginal Development Commission as a matter of course.

The reason for this is that the Aboriginal Development Commission was specifically set up to provide finance and in some cases grants to Aboriginal organisations. The finance provided is normally on easier terms and interest rates than the finance that could be provided by the Northern Territory Development Corporation.

Caravan Parks Survey

589 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to a survey by Territory Research Associates entitled 'NT Caravan Parks' conducted in March and April 1981 and ask -

1. Will the government take action on recommendation No. 2 that 'backyard parks ... not conforming to the requirements of the Act ... be required to cease operations'?
2. If so, how is it intended to house the users of backyard parks who are 'unqualified' but 'probably of relatively high incidence' according to the report?

ANSWER

The government is aware of the problems associated with illegal and backyard caravan parks, and will not be idle where unlawful use of caravans as permanent homes is causing nuisance or offence to surrounding land owners.

At the same time the residential shortages in some Territory centres is acknowledged and the government has no intention of exacerbating the problem with wanton and unnecessary action which would deprive people of existing accommodation.

Studies undertaken by government departments and their agents are aimed at ultimate resolution of the housing needs in all centres and, through it, the elimination of unlawful use of caravans as residences.

Housing Commission Building Program for Tennant Creek

590 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In the light of the Peko sackings, will the Housing Commission building program for Tennant Creek in the 1981-82 Budget be maintained?

ANSWER

The NTPS building program has been maintained.

The general public building program has been revised. Twenty-five 2-bedroom and 1 1-bedroom units will be constructed plus 6 1-bedroom units for pensioners.

Napperby Station

591 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has an application been lodged for a special purposes lease or sub-lease on Napperby Station and, if so, when will it be granted?

ANSWER

On 20 December 1977, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs confirmed advice from the Laramba Community that as the lessees of the Napperby Station have agreed to the continued occupation of the existing camp area, no formal request for an excision of land is required. To date, no further advices have been received.

Napperby Station

594 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has a health clinic been erected at Napperby Station and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The proposed health clinic at Napperby Station has not been erected because agreement cannot be reached on a suitable site.

Staff Numbers in Chest X-ray Area

595 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has there been a reduction of departmental staff in the chest x-ray area and, if so, why?

ANSWER

Yes. Several employees in the administrative classification have been re-deployed to positions elsewhere in the Department of Health. This was possible because of the devolution of responsibility for tuberculosis control from central to regional administration and the consolidation of x-ray services at Darwin Hospital as part of the department's movement from the old Darwin Hospital site.

Oral History Program

597 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question 185 regarding the Oral History Program, and ask -

1. How many persons have been interviewed by the Oral History Program?
2. Why are only 13 records of these interviews held at the Australian Archives?
3. What arrangements are made for the safe storage and custody of material not transferred to the archives?
4. Under what conditions is the material not in the archives made available to researchers?
5. If these conditions of access are different from those applying to material held at the archives, in what way are they different, and why?
6. What action will be taken to expedite transfer of material to the archives?

ANSWER

1. In excess of 260 persons have been interviewed for the Oral History Program.
2. Transcripts held at the Australian Archives are those in which the interviewer has placed some special restriction as to access and use. Where the only condition placed on the transcript relates to a suitable acknowledgement to the interviewer these transcripts are placed in the State Reference Library.
3. All tapes and transcripts are held in a locked filing cabinet in the Executive Officer's room. The Chairman and the Executive Officer have the only access to the keys.
4. No material is made available to researchers which is not in the archives or the State Reference Library except for members of the committee and historians who have won the Northern Territory government's history award and who are currently researching their projects.
5. Conditions of access are laid down by the interviewee. All material, whether in the archives, State Reference Library or in the History Unit's offices, is covered by the conditions laid down by the interviewee.
6. Before material is placed in the archives the transcription has to be checked by the interviewee and the History Unit. This is done as soon as practicable within existing resources.

NT Traffic Signs

598 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Where are Northern Territory traffic signs purchased from and, if purchased interstate, why?
2. How much did the government spend on traffic signs in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
3. Has the government investigated whether any Territory based firm can manufacture and supply traffic signs?

ANSWER

1. The NT government has been obtaining recent supplies of traffic signs from firms in Melbourne and Brisbane. The 3 firms involved were the only tenderers to the NT government for the supply of traffic signs.

Contracts were let on the basis of competitive tender. The contracts expired on 30 November 1981.

2. (a) \$276,000; (b) \$197,000.
3. Investigations were made into local manufacturing capacity prior to reallocation of contracts. Detailed discussions were held with representatives of 2 local firms. It is considered both firms have capacity to manufacture at least some of the local requirements.

New tenders for the supply of traffic signs were advertised on 29 October 1981. Six local firms were invited to tender but declined. Tenders were received from 7 firms including 2 from the Northern Territory. Tenders are currently being evaluated.

Railway, Darwin Wharf - Berrimah

599 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has a route for the standard gauge railway line linking the Darwin wharf and the proposed railway terminal at Berrimah been determined?
2. If so, what is the route?

ANSWER

While a preliminary examination has been made there has as yet been no final decision. I would be pleased to advise the honourable Member when the route has been determined.

Access Roads to New Darwin Airport Terminal

600 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the location of an access road or roads to the new Darwin airport terminal been determined?
2. If so, what is the location?

ANSWER

1. Yes. The location of the access road is in accordance with the Darwin airport traffic study conducted by the consultants, Maunsell, for the Department of Transport, Australia.
2. The access road route roughly follows the alignment of Rapid Creek and the aerodrome boundary ending at the new complex. It will connect with McMillans Road between Rapid Creek and Rapid Creek Road.

'Minimum Security' Prisoners at Gunn Point

602 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Are male prisoners classified as 'minimum security' permitted to go fishing and swimming at Gunn Point at times?
2. If so, when and what similar provision will be made for female prisoners?

ANSWER

1. All prisoners at Gunn Point Prison Farm are classed as 'minimum security'.

Fishing is permitted on some Saturday afternoons but only under the supervision of 2 prison officers and if there are no members of the public using the beach.

For both safety and security reasons, these activities require super-

vision and this is dependent upon availability of staff.

2. There are no facilities for women prisoners at Gunn Point which at this stage of its development will remain a male prisoner institution.

Transfer of Prisoners

603 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Are male prisoners at Berrimah gaol transferred to Gunn Point Prison Farm following department assessment?
2. If so, what similar provision will be made for female prisoners and when?

ANSWER

1. All prisoners in the Northern Territory are subject to a classification process as soon as possible after reception into prison. This is carried out by a classification committee that makes recommendations to the Director of Correctional Services. The committee is made up of senior prison officers, including some from the Gunn Point Prison Farm. Suitable Alice Springs prisoners are included in this process.
2. Female prisoners can only be placed at the Darwin or Alice Springs prisons since these are the only institutions with appropriate facilities. Gunn Point is not likely to receive facilities for female prisoners in the foreseeable future.

Grants-in-Aid, Nhulunbuy Sporting Bodies

605 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

What amount was provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

A total of \$27,199 was provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981.

Industries Training Commission

606 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Industries Training Commission examine employers' records to ensure apprentices are fairly treated?

ANSWER

The Industries Training Act 1979 sets out the conditions under which apprentices are to be employed and the NT Industries Training Commission is empowered to oversight the enforcement of these conditions, which include the on-the-job training of apprentices, their attendance at college and the standards they must acquire during their apprenticeship.

More specifically, section 72(1) of the Act provides that an apprenticeship supervisor employed by the commission may inspect employers' records in relation to the employment of an apprentice or to make inquiries of an apprentice to ascertain whether the provisions of the Act are being complied with. Any person who wilfully obstructs a commission officer in carrying out this role is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of \$100. Further, section 73(1) of the Act requires the production to the commission of such books, papers or other documents, other than a tax return, kept in relation to the employment of an apprentice or person within the time specified in the notice. Once again a penalty of \$100 can be served on a person contravening such a notice.

Apprenticeship supervisors of the commission regularly visit employers to ensure that both parties are meeting their obligations under the indenture and that appropriate training is being provided. In cases where there is some question as to the adequacy of training, then records may be examined where necessary.

In a number of limited cases the NT Industries Training Commission is also required to regulate the rates of pay and conditions for apprentices indentured to employers who are not respondent to an award, agreement or determination in the Northern Territory.

Aborigines on St Vidgeon and Eva Valley Stations

608 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are Aborigines camping on St Vidgeon and Eva Valley Stations trespassing or merely re-establishing traditional links with their country?

ANSWER

- (i) The Aborigines who have camped at St Vidgeon Station homestead area did so without the permission of the mortgagees. The Northern Land Council was advised by the Secretary, Department of Lands, in July 1981 that the Aboriginal group was considered to be trespassing.
- (ii) In the case of Eva Valley Station the Aborigines camped apparently with the agreement of the former lessee, Mr B.G.L. Killen, and their continued presence has not been objected to by the mortgagees.

Electricity Supply at Mataranka

610 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

Is there sufficient electric power at Mataranka to meet recent developments? If not, does the government intend to introduce rationing of power?

ANSWER

The maximum demand at Mataranka is approaching 200 kilowatts and with the imminent connection of several major loads is likely to reach 300 kilowatts over the next few months.

As the existing 2 machines in the power station are only rated at 200 kilowatts each, arrangements are being made for parallel operation of the units prior to these major loads being connected. This will enable the power station to adequately supply these loads. Maintenance will be carried out during periods of low load.

Public Servant Pilots

612 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are veterinary officers, stock inspectors and other public servants required to visit widely separated centres in the Territory and who possess pilot licences encouraged to fly themselves and so reduce travelling time between centres?
2. Are such officers encouraged or assisted to obtain pilot licences?

ANSWER

1. No specific encouragement is given to field staff who possess pilot licences to fly themselves to centres within the Territory.
2. As with motor vehicle licences, employees who wish to obtain a pilot licence are not specifically encouraged nor financially assisted.

Alleged Rape near Top Springs

613 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What were the circumstances of the alleged rape, robbery and assault near Top Springs recently?

ANSWER

On 23 November 1981 at 6.20 am the Katherine police were notified by radio telephone from Top Springs concerning an alleged serious assault having taken place on the Buchanan Highway, 27 kilometres south of Top Springs.

Katherine Criminal Investigation Branch members attended at Top Springs and interviewed the complainant, a Willy Breider (European), and his de facto wife, Elsie Raymond (Aboriginal), and their 4 children.

The complainant and his family had been travelling between Top Springs and Camfield Station when their Toyota vehicle broke down between 10 pm-11 pm on 22 November 1981.

In the early hours of the morning, approximately 2 am, on 23 November 1981, another vehicle containing approximately 12 male Aboriginals stopped where the complainant's vehicle was broken down.

Several males came over to the complainant's vehicle.

One male assaulted the complainant and broke his nose.

While this assault was taking place other male persons were taking the complainant's property, which included a quantity of beer and food, from his vehicle.

This group then caused the family to flee from the area with the exception of one of the females, Pauline Murrimal, aged 13 years, who was forcibly detained and taken into the surrounding bush where she was allegedly raped.

Police investigations resulted in the following alleged offenders appearing before the Katherine Court of Summary Jurisdiction on 7 January 1982:

Happy Barcoo	Receiving stolen property. No appearance. Bail \$100 estreated. Withdrawn
Robbie Peter	Receiving stolen property. Fined \$100 I.D. 4 days
Luke Dodd	Receiving stolen property. Fined \$75 I.D. 3 days
Gilbert Dodd	Rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Richard Algy	Rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Bruce Dodd	Rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Alan Douglas	Attempted rape. Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Hal Peanut	Aid and abet commission of offence (Rape). Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982
Ross Dodd	Aid and abet commission of offence (Rape). Committed for trial next sittings of Supreme Court in Darwin in March 1982.

Katherine Police District

614 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the Katherine Police District is never up to establishment strength because of officers on leave or attending training courses and resignations?
2. Are 2-man police stations in the district seldom at establishment strength for the same reasons?
3. If so, will he ensure that the district is staffed at establishment level to enable police services to function at full efficiency?

ANSWER

1. Katherine Police Station is headquarters for No. 3 Division, Northern Command, and as such the establishment at this station includes a relieving component of 6 members who are required to relieve at 9 stations throughout the division.

Gazetted establishment at Katherine is 1 Sergeant First Class, 6 Sergeants Third Class and 21 Constables, at total of 28 members. This station also has the services of a police aide.

With 6 members required for relieving duties actual working establishment at Katherine Police Station is therefore 22 members, more than enough to provide efficient service for the population of Katherine. Average working strength at that station for the 12 months ending December 1981 was 20 members or 90% of actual working establishment. This was despite 5 resignations and the necessity for 10 members to attend 7 training courses for a total of 143 days during that period.

Katherine Police Station is currently 1 Third Class Sergeant under strength. However, this position should be filled after the Third Class Sergeant Promotions Board sits in the first week of March this year.

2. Of 7 2-man stations in the division only 2 were under strength at any time during the 12 months ending December 1981: Mataranka for a period of 2 months and Kalkaringi for a period of 6 months. The former could quickly be assisted from either Maranboy or Katherine should the need arise and the latter in similar circumstances would be assisted by members from Lajamanu.

Both stations are currently at full strength as are all other 2-man stations in that division.

No problems have been experienced in providing efficient police services within the division.

The following table shows actual and gazetted strength at Katherine and all 2-man police stations within No. 3 Division, Northern Command, for the 12 month period ending December 1981:

KATHERINE POLICE STATION AND 2-MAN POLICE STATIONS

No. 3 DIVISION, NORTHERN COMMAND

	1*		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
1981	G+	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A
JAN	22	19	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
FEB	22	19	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
MAR	22	22	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
APR	22	22	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
MAY	22	20	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
JUN	22	19	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
JUL	22	17	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
AUG	22	19	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
SEP	22	22	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
OCT	22	21	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NOV	22	23	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
DEC	22	17	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2

Average 20

- 1 - Katherine 3 - Kalkaringi 5 - Maranboy 7 - Ngukurr
- 2 - Borroloola 4 - Lajamanu 6 - Mataranka 8 - Timber Creek

G - Gazetted establishment. A - Actual establishment.

* Katherine - On 23 June 1981 and 4 January 1982 confirmed with OIC Katherine Police Station that their 'Actual Strength' includes all General Duties.

+ Gazetted establishment + 6 relief.

3. Police services are functioning efficiently in the Katherine Police District and within the division and will continue to do so.

Interest on Commonwealth Funds to NT

615 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

1. Is interest earned on Commonwealth funds received by the Territory during the time between receipt and expenditure?
2. If so, is such interest used to provide additional housing for low income families, assistance for the Electricity Commission and similar needs?

ANSWER

1. Interest is earned on cash balances held from day to day by Treasury, including any funds received from the Commonwealth. Funds held or invested are not distinguished according to source, since they are the temporary residue of a continuous stream of payments and receipts. Interest is therefore not imputed to particular sources or holdings except in a few instances such as the NT Housing Commission.
2. It follows that interest earnings are not hypothecated to particular types of expenditure but instead are placed in the general funding pool for allocation through the budget to expenditure needs including, as determined by the government from time to time, those identified in the question.

Sale of Government Houses

616 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Are prices for government houses sold to occupants determined on the basis of replacement cost?
2. How many government houses in Katherine have been sold to their occupants?
3. How many new government houses have been built in Katherine to replace those sold and where have they been built?

ANSWER

1. Sale prices of houses sold under the NTPS Staff Sales Scheme are determined at whichever is the greater of (a) the Valuer-General's market valuation; or (b) the average of Valuer-General's market valuation and the Housing Commission's replacement cost.
2. Since 1 July 1978 to end of 1980-81 financial year, the commission had sold 7 houses to tenants in Katherine under the NTPS Staff Sales Scheme. A further 10 houses have been sold to date during the current financial year.
3. Since 1 July 1978, the Housing Commission has built 8 staff houses in Katherine. A further 10 NTPS houses are in current year's program for construction at Katherine East development.

The houses built and those to be built, are to meet demand for rental accommodation, rather than to specifically replace any dwellings that may have been sold.

Katherine Building Inspector

617 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will a building inspector be stationed permanently in Katherine to provide a uniform interpretation of building regulations for builders and prospective builders?

ANSWER

The stationing of a building inspector permanently in Katherine was last reviewed in November 1981 and it was not justified by the volume of work. There is an average of 46 building approvals per year.

One result of the review was an upgrading of service. Inspections have been increased from 1 to 2 a month.

The element in the uniform interpretation of building regulations contributed by building inspectors is the exactitude with which the regulations are applied in the field. Interpretation is the province of the Building Board and its plan examination section. Inspectors for the Katherine area are now being changed at 3-monthly rather than 1-monthly intervals and consistency in inspection standard for the longer period is ensured.

Television Service to Mataranka

620 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of any reasons why television services have not been made available to residents of Mataranka?

ANSWER

Information obtained from Telecom reveals that the link fed system for a television service to Mataranka was scheduled for the financial year

1981-82. Work is proceeding on schedule and, unless unforeseen circumstances arise, Telecom expects that the necessary equipment will be installed by the middle of April 1982. The television service will commence when the work is completed.

Petrol Issues for Government Vehicles

628 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When did petrol issues for government vehicles at the 2½ mile depot cease?
2. What company has been given the contract for supplying (a) petrol, and (b) distillate for government vehicles and at what price per litre?
3. Were tenders called for this contract and, if so, (a) how many tenders were received, and (b) what was the price per litre of each tender for (i) petrol, and (ii) distillate?
4. When was the petrol storage and bowser facility at the 2½ mile depot installed?
5. How much did it cost?
6. Which company had the contract to supply fuel to the 2½ mile depot in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
7. At what price did the company supply (a) petrol, and (b) distillate to the depot in (i) 1979-80, and (ii) 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. 31 December 1981.
2. Since 1 July 1978 the NT government has by arrangement with the Australian government utilised the Australian government contract for the supply of fuel and lubricants. The contractor for this period has been Shell Australia Pty Ltd. The current contract rates for fuel supplied at Darwin (ex-resellers) are:
 super petrol - \$0.3341 per litre; standard petrol - \$0.3248 per litre; distillate - \$0.3280 per litre.
 Contract rates are subject to change due to periodical increases approved by competent statutory authorities.
3. No tenders were called for the above reasons.
4. The petrol storage and bowser facility at the 2½ mile depot was installed in June 1980.
5. The installation cost was borne by BP Australia who owns the bowser and storage tanks. The department leases this facility from BP at a cost of \$1,697.18 per annum.
6. Shell Australia Pty Ltd held the Australian government fuel and lubricants contract in 1979-80 and 1980-81 as mentioned in answer 2. above.
7. The contract price for bulk fuel was as follows:

	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
Super	\$ 0.2375 - \$ 0.2852	\$ 0.2853 - \$ 0.3243
Standard	\$ 0.2265 - \$ 0.2760	\$ 0.2760 - \$ 0.3150
Distillate	\$ 0.2090 - \$ 0.2802	\$ 0.2802 - \$ 0.3217.

The prices shown are those in effect at the commencement and close of each financial year. A number of contract amendments are received during the course of each financial year related to price variations.

Territorians Covered by Health Insurance

634 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Of Territorians now exempt from payment of health care charges, (a) how many, and (b) what percentage, have obtained health insurance?

ANSWER

My department has no way of providing the answer to these questions. Exemptions under the 'disadvantaged' persons scheme are handled by the Commonwealth Department of Social Security. Health insurance is provided by privately operated health insurance funds and Medibank Private. No details of persons insured since 1 September 1981 are yet available. Details will be supplied to Commonwealth Department of Health in June 1983 by the health insurance funds.

Foreshore Protection Proposals

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In the light of the minister's recent statement that the government was drawing up foreshore protection proposals for Darwin, can he advise when these proposals will be made public?

ANSWER

The government intends to adopt a scheme whereby there will be additional protections over and above those provided for in the Darwin Town Plan and in the Planning Act to ensure that people can feel much easier than they have been able to in the past about the possibility of development on what has been fairly loosely termed 'foreshores' around Darwin. The proposals are not yet finalised. I hope to be in a position next week to release them publicly. Prior to their formal adoption by government, we will have a period of public exhibition with a view to obtaining comments from the public. It is a matter in which I expect some interest will be taken. I am pleased to accept all representations not only from individuals in the community but from organisations suggesting ways in which we should go about it. I would hope that information will be available next week.

Federal Sales Tax Law

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he ask both of our CLP federal representatives to vote against the proposed sales tax on essentials of life because of the inequitable burden it will place on Territorians and did he seek an explanation from the Prime Minister as to whether or not our federal representatives were threatened by the Fraser government with a cut in general funding to the Territory if they failed to vote in favour of the sales tax as was suggested in the press by Senator Kilgariff?

ANSWER

I have made representations to quite a considerable number of people on my views in relation to the sales tax legislation. I might say that they are my views as Chief Minister; they are not the views of the government of the Northern Territory. I believe that the federal government has reasons of its own for wishing to spread the burden of tax across the community and those reasons are obviously so that it can afford to give some relief by way of cuts in personal income tax.

Being rather cynical in relation to taxation, my own view is that I have never really noticed that taxation goes down. Some taxes are abolished. We have seen the case in Queensland of the abolition of succession duty. That is a very good selling point for the Queensland government. The Northern Territory has no succession duty so the Territory is in the same position as Queensland. I noticed that, at about the same time as Queensland abolished succession duty, it raised imposts in other areas such as on the renewal of life insurance policies. I have a couple of life insurance policies that I took out when I was a law clerk in Queensland. At the time of the abolition of succession duty in Queensland, I started getting billed \$20 a year stamp duty on the renewal of each of these life insurance policies.

Mr Speaker, it is experiences like that that have made me rather cynical about reductions in taxation. Reductions in taxation just cannot occur; there has to be a public acceptance that there will be less demanded of government. If there is less demanded of government, the government structure itself can be reduced. It is arguable whether this is desirable because a reduction in the government structure will, of course, result in a lowering in the number of people employed by the public sector in Australia. The public sector employment

in this country is very considerable. All those things have to be taken into account. I am one of those people who believe that the public should be educated. It will be a lengthy process because, unfortunately, our people have become accustomed to saying that the government should do this or the government should do that or the government should undertake something else. I believe that we should embark consciously on an effort to persuade the people of Australia that they should expect and demand less of their governments. In those circumstances, real reductions in taxation will be possible but not before.

I must say that I think that it has been a failing of every Australian government since the 1930s that it has not been explained to people that the more that they ask for the more they will have to pay. Of course, the present government is desirous of reducing personal income tax which I think we all would like to see but, in order to reduce personal income tax without at the same time cutting back expenditure on government services, there has to be an alternative source of revenue. If there is a reduction in personal income tax, it may be accompanied by an additional sales tax impost which I am told will raise in the order of \$300m around this country in the course of a full year. Certainly, I am implacably opposed to any addition to the categories of items that are subject to sales tax, particularly the necessities of life - building materials, clothing and so on - although I believe that a reduction in personal income tax may well follow. It may come this year; it may come next year. However, inexorably, personal income tax will creep back up again.

Apart from educating people to expect less and to ask less of their governments, the only real solution is a total restructuring of our tax system. No government has had the guts to put it like that or to embark on that exercise. There were reports such as the Asprey Report of some years ago. Whatever restructuring of the tax system may come about, one thing that we have to avoid in the future is the opening of possibilities for tax avoidance. I am not going to say tax evasion. Tax evasion must be dealt with by the law and dealt with harshly. There are quite legitimate circumstances under the present laws whereby tax avoidance can be engaged in. I suppose most of us would like to minimise whatever liability we have for income tax. However, it is this that moves me towards a position that I would never have entertained seriously: that of saying that I would accept a flat rate of tax. When I say 'a flat rate of tax', I think that is putting it too simply. I do not think that there can be an across-the-board rate of tax. I believe that we must devise a very simplistic tax system which will remove all chances for tax evasion and tax avoidance.

I have put my views to the Territory members, to the Prime Minister and to other members of the federal government. I hope that they will take my views into account. I believe that there are many other people who have put views forward to them. The matter of how the Territory members of the CLP vote in the federal parliament is a matter for them. Unlike the party of the Leader of the Opposition, my party does not as an organisation dictate to its members how they will vote in divisions of the federal parliament. I am not in a position to dictate to our federal representatives as to how they will vote. I put my views to them and they will make a decision which they consider to be in the best interests of the Northern Territory. There is no doubt a government that is hard pressed for revenue will probably not look sympathetically at people who put forward views that are easy to hold when one does not have to bear the responsibility of balancing the federal budget annually.

Jabiru Hospital

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position regarding the current building, equipping and chartering of the Jabiru Hospital?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth funded the Northern Territory government for the construction of a community health centre and hospital at Jabiru and that funding was made available some 2 years ago. The construction of that building is due to be completed in the middle of June and operating in July.

There has been some change of circumstances surrounding the hospital since the initial grant. During the initial stages, it was proposed that the Commonwealth would share the cost of operation of that hospital. I have been advised by the federal Minister for Health that the federal government no longer plans to meet any obligation for the operational costs of running the Jabiru hospital. In light of our present financial difficulties, that is just one more burden that we will have to wear and it is one that undoubtedly we will sort out.

There is another criterion that has been raised by the medical people within the Department of Health. They believe that the hospital at Jabiru should not be a full base hospital as was originally proposed. It is a half an hour from Darwin by air and it averages one admission to Darwin per week. Half of the admissions would have to come to Darwin anyway because they could not be dealt with in Jabiru because there would be insufficient facilities. What the medical people are arguing is that, irrespective of what we build there, most people will opt to avail themselves of the new Casuarina Hospital any way. That is a perfectly normal reaction.

In light of these considerations, I propose to visit Jabiru in the next 2 weeks with the member for Tiwi, in whose electorate this hospital stands, to consult with all the groups and, in particular, the companies and unions involved. I do not have any particular view that we should have a hospital if it is not needed or that we should not have one if people really want it. Once I can get the grassroots feeling of the people and the attitude of the community towards paying for the service, then I will be in a much better position to advise the member of the future of the hospital.

Parap Community Health Clinic

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Rumours have been circulating for some time that the Parap Community Health Clinic is to be closed. Can he advise whether that decision has been made and, if not, can he advise when a final decision will be made with respect to the Parap Community Health Clinic?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the rumours that she has heard and I cannot comment on those. But there are plans being considered by the community health section of the Northern Region section of the department. I will give the member a bit of detail surrounding that consideration.

As members are aware, the department is moving away from the Darwin annex totally. In fact, I think it has handed the keys over already to the Department of Transport and Works and we do not have a presence there at all. The future of the community health centre at the annex was something that had to be taken care of and the community health section has been reviewing the boundaries and functions of both the Darwin annex centre and the Parap Community Health Clinic. I have not received a final report on its recommendations but I can advise the House that the annex will be transferring to the MLC building this week and that the future of the Parap centre is still under consideration.

I would be more than happy to receive a representation either personally or in writing from the member for Fannie Bay in whose electorate this facility is stationed. If she has any firm views about the continuance of the Community Health Service in her electorate, I would be pleased to hear those too. Quite a few people have said to me that it would be terrible if the Parap clinic was shifted because there are so many people in the flats who rely on Parap.

My first thought was that, if the situation in the flats is as bad as people say it is, then perhaps we should have rooms in the flats. Again, I would like to discuss that with the honourable member who would have a much better feeling for it than I would.

Nightcliff Dental Clinic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER FOR HEALTH.

There has been speculation in the press that the Nightcliff Dental Clinic will close. Is that a fact and, if so, by what criteria was this decision reached given that the clinic is used to capacity and charges fees for service?

ANSWER

The honourable member can rest assured that it is not a rumour. The Nightcliff Dental Clinic will be transferring to the new community health facility in the Casuarina Shopping Centre area. There will be a consolidation there of the department's dental services. As well as the Nightcliff unit, the Sanderson unit will also be transferred. They will be combined to operate at the new building in Casuarina. The school dental program, which is currently conducted from the Nightcliff clinic, will be transferred to the Ludmilla Primary School and St Pauls School. This consolidation should provide a better service for the whole of the northern suburbs region. If the honourable member needs any further information, I would be happy to supply it.

Commissioner of Police

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of recent press reports that the Commissioner of Police, Mr McAulay, is about to take up a position interstate, could he advise the truth of those reports?

ANSWER

There have been press reports and speculation over several months that the Northern Territory Commissioner of Police was to be offered, according to one press report, the post of Commissioner of the South Australian Police or, according to other reports, the post of Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police. It is some credit to Mr McAulay that these rumours should circulate. Obviously, it shows that the Northern Territory is very fortunate in the person that it has as Commissioner of Police in that the press, who consider themselves to be intelligent, could print such rumours and give credence to the sound stature that our commissioner has in police circles. It is with some pleasure that I can advise honourable members that Mr McAulay has assured me that he is not entertaining offers received from other parts of Australia or overseas. At one stage, Mr McAulay was being solicited to head the United Nations Police Force. He has assured me that he will be here in the Northern Territory for the foreseeable future. From the point of view of the government, I can only say that I am very pleased to hear that and I hope that he can continue here until his retirement.

House in Brunei for Chief Minister

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister been offered the gift of a house in Brunei by the Brunei government? If so, what does he intend to do with it? The question is asked without malice.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not heard this rumour myself but it may have circulated in the press whilst I was absent in Jakarta last weekend. I hasten to add that I have received no offer of a free house or a house to purchase from the Indonesian government. I had the pleasure of visiting Brunei with you, Sir, early in 1981. The north coast of Brunei is a very pleasant part of the world. It is an independent sultanate and is very wealthy. I think it has revenues of approximately \$2,56b a year. It has a population of about 250,000 people. It is not much bigger than greater Darwin and it only manages to spend about \$200m a year on its people. Obviously it has a lot of money to spare. I understand that the ruler of the sultanate uses some of this money in playing polo. I hoped our Minister for Primary Production would get some facility for playing polo so that he could converse with the Sultan over a chukka or two.

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, it is not true that the government of Brunei, or any other government, has offered me a house, free or otherwise, or any other structure. No one in the course of my career has yet offered to me even a used King George IV fiver. I have to disappoint the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Ti Tree Inquest

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister inquired into criticisms of police practice and procedure made by the coroner following the Ti Tree inquest and, if so, what conclusions has he drawn?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certainly that is a question to which I adverted when I got a chance to read the finding of the coroner, Mr Gerry Galvin SM, in relation to the unfortunate chapter of events which is known collectively as the 'Ti Tree inquest'. The situation is that the police have taken account of Mr Galvin's comments. The Police Commissioner personally reviewed Mr Galvin's findings. I believe that certain actions had already been taken which might well assist in the future to obviate any problems which do occur. From memory, the matter was raised in the press very early this year and the Police Commissioner wrote a letter to the Managing Editor of the Northern Territory News. I could answer this question by reading this letter. It is a couple of pages long but I think the matter is of some importance and is worth putting in the record:

Dear Sir,

The questions raised in your article following an examination of the publication of Mr Gerry Galvin's findings into what has become known as the 'Ti Tree inquest' fall broadly into 2 categories. The first relates to the general evidence available to Mr Galvin at the time and upon which he decided to commit Constable First Class Jack Clifford for trial on a charge of murder. Quote obviously, Mr Galvin discharged his duties to the best of his abilities and I infer no criticism of him whatsoever in what I subsequently say. But it must be emphasised that Jack Clifford subsequently stood trial and was

exonerated by a jury of his peers. Therefore, any further speculation as to his guilt or innocence is untenable both on moral and legal grounds. I deplore any backdoor methods to retry Clifford at this time.

The other issues raised relate to the general efficiency of the police investigation. In this context I must draw attention to what Mr Galvin said at page 22 of his findings, and I quote inter alia:

I am satisfied that there could be no finding that the police investigation was biased, incompetent or proceeded on the basis of seeking to protect the police officers. It is clear that the investigation was difficult and that there had been a fracas. There had been some 10 witnesses some of whom were adversely affected by alcohol, some severely so. The investigation was done partly at night in a remote area and this added to the difficulty of the investigation.

Nevertheless, the administration of this force has been aware for some time of deficiency of certain aspects of investigation management due to the type of difficulties alluded to by Mr Galvin. Consequently, a major crime plan has been developed and staff trained for the purpose of better co-ordination of the collection and collation of evidence in serious crimes. The plan has since been implemented and, should an investigation of this type occur in the future, it would be conducted in conformity with these new procedures.

Comments have also been made as to the inadequacy of certain aspects of the forensic investigation and its co-ordination. Coincidentally, the major crime plan adverts to this type of deficiency. Having said that, I am the first to concede that the forensic facilities in the Northern Territory are inadequate, not so much in quality but in sufficiency.

This same situation pertains not only in the Northern Territory but in the whole of Australia. It may be interesting to know that in the case of Victoria, which has arguably the best forensic facilities in Australia, comment was recently made that the prosecution of certain major crimes has been delayed for several years awaiting forensic reports.

The simple fact is that law enforcement agencies are in a dilemma because of the lack of forensic facilities. While one waits for extended periods for the results of complicated forensic tests to come to hand, the quality of other conventional evidence deteriorates due, in some cases, to the failing memory of witnesses. This is a point which Mr Galvin himself made. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the delays in waiting for forensic evidence to become available may be unproductive because the reports are frequently inconclusive.

In the Ti Tree matter, it appears to me that the evidence would not have been more conclusive even had the forensic examination been more extensive. As something of an aside, I ought to mention that for several months now I have been having discussions with the Chief Minister and the Secretary of the Department of Health with a view to the establishment of a forensic laboratory in the Northern Territory.

Some of the other specific questions raised in your article are difficult to answer without creating press speculation in relation to the charges laid against Clifford. It would be grossly improper to do so, especially as Clifford's innocence has since been clearly established. Nevertheless, I have separated out those issues which can be looked at separately. For example, much has been said about the extent of inquiries into the amount of liquor consumed by certain people taken

into protective custody that night while the police appeared to have ignored clarification of certain discrepancies in relation to the amount of liquor consumed by the 2 officers concerned. I totally reject this criticism. On the one hand, the amount of liquor consumed by the persons apprehended was directly relevant to the lawfulness or otherwise of their apprehension. On the other hand, the consumption of liquor by 2 police officers was irrelevant once it was established that they were in no way affected by liquor.

The only justification for further inquiries in relation to the consumption of beer by the 2 police officers would be if there was any intention on the part of this administration to charge either or both officers with a breach of discipline. I am sure that any reasonably-minded person would agree that to consider minor disciplinary action against a man who subsequently stood trial on a charge of murder for which he was exonerated would be ludicrous. This is also true in relation to considering any other minor breaches of discipline, if any. In any event, the definition of when police officers stationed in remote areas are on or off duty has always been unclear and will remain so in the future.

There have also been suggestions made that the police officers were engaged in an improper patrol. Mr Galvin found that it was not a punitive patrol. In any event, police officers do not need reasons to patrol their districts. It is part of their duty and I would consider them derelict in the performance of these duties if they did not engage in regular peace-keeping patrols.

The question of non-issue of batons has also been raised. For some time now, the effectiveness of issued batons has been under review, especially when considered in contrast to the type of weapons which are frequently used against the police. When a conclusion is reached, the remedy will be provided.

There are 2 further questions which have been raised, the first of which I do not consider particularly relevant to this matter. In regard to police-Aboriginal relationships, I believe that these are generally good. However, there is no doubt the police do not enjoy good relationships with law breakers whether they are Aboriginals or otherwise. I foresee no change.

The question related to customary law is again totally irrelevant to this case but is extremely complex and is currently being studied by a number of learned groups in Australia. I have made appropriate submissions and I do not care to debate them at this stage.

The Commissioner refers to submissions he has made to the Kirby Commission, Mr Speaker.

In conclusion, I would like to say this about Constable Clifford: anyone who had the opportunity to study his demeanour during the traumatic inquest and subsequent trial would have conceded that he is a man of great courage and integrity. He is admired by his fellow members in general and me in particular. I would only hope that, in the light of everything that has happened, his fellow Australians would now adopt their traditional approach in these circumstances; that is, of giving a man a fair go.

I return to the question of forensic facilities and a forensic laboratory. The trend in criminology seems to be to wish to separate forensic facilities from the direct jurisdiction of the police force. I understand that forensic institutes are established for that purpose. My recollection is that

Victoria has such an institute although I am not certain of that. Most Australian police forces have forensic branches. To deal with the collection and collation of evidence at the crime scene, it seems it will be necessary for police forces to maintain at least some forensic skill and strength. When I say that, it really brings me to the nub of the question.

I was concerned that the Northern Territory did not have a sufficiently strong forensic section. I raised this with the Commissioner of Police, with the Solicitor-General and with the Secretary of the Department of Health because all 3 are to some extent involved. The Solicitor-General has to carry the responsibility for prosecutions and in the limited circumstances of the Northern Territory - limited financially and in terms of personnel - it may be that the appropriate place to locate a forensic branch would be in the Department of Health. This might keep it at arm's length from the police force, and avoid what some lawyers apparently believe is a relationship of chumminess growing up between the forensic people attached to the police force and the police with whom they operate on a regular basis. In fact it has transpired that some forensic specialists whose services we have been fortunate enough to acquire have been located within the jurisdiction of the Department of Health. Nevertheless, on a day-to-day basis, sufficient delegation has been given by the Secretary of the Health Department to the Police Commissioner to enable him to issue necessary operational orders so that things will happen quickly.

I want to review the operation of this section in the near future because one of its shining lights has resigned recently. I understand that the reason for resignation, while not necessarily apparent on the face of the resignation, are some degree of frustration with the system. As I see it, it will be many years before the Northern Territory can afford to have its own separate forensic institute. I attend the Police Ministers' Conferences which occur about twice a year. I usually manage to get along once a year or maybe once every 2 years. I am supporting what appears to be a very long-winded effort to establish a national forensic research institute. It may be that, in the short term, it will be necessary for the complete forensic resources of the Northern Territory to be located within the police force. I have few misgivings about this. I believe that our police force is a good one. It may not be everything that we would desire in terms of sophistication but it has one overwhelming virtue: it is a completely clean police force. I do not know of any circumstances in which it has been alleged that the police have attempted to fabricate evidence in prosecuting cases in the Northern Territory. In our circumstances, for the sake of attracting and retaining the right sort of people, we have to locate the forensic resources within the police force for the time being.

I have tried to outline to honourable members the problems with which we are faced at the moment. I do not pretend that my comments have been exhaustive. I wish to give people some idea of what is going on. If anyone is particularly interested, I would be pleased to receive written comments at any time on this subject. I hope that I have answered the honourable member's question.

Artificial Insemination Facilities

Mrs PADGHAM PURICH to MINISTER FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What is the situation regarding artificial insemination facilities extended to primary industry by the Department of Primary Production?

ANSWER

It is about 10 years since artificial insemination was used experimentally on some of the larger stations. Under open-range conditions, the technicians were unable to establish the oestrus cycle of the female bovine. In those days,

they abandoned the scheme in favour of closer settlement. I believe that new techniques are now available and a subsidy is being proposed for pastoralists for artificial insemination on the smaller landholdings. It involves the payment of some money: about 25% of the actual cost of the process.

Koolpinya Lease

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it a fact that the government intends to accept part of Koolpinya lease in exchange for granting the Koolpinya management an additional lease? Will he advise the location and the area of land that Koolpinya is to relinquish to the government and the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinya?

ANSWER

The matter is under discussion by the government. I do not think that the plans have been finalised. I would suggest that he place his question on notice.

Yipirinya School

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise his decision to register or otherwise Yipirinya School in Alice Springs as an independent school under the Education Act?

ANSWER

I propose writing to the Yipirinya School Council this week. It would be less than courteous to that council if I advised my decision prior to communicating with it.

TAA - Special Gove Flight

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand TAA has made approaches to the federal Department of Transport for permission to operate a DC9 flight into Gove on 2 April to enable schoolchildren to return home from boarding schools in central Queensland. Is he able to advise whether or not this has yet been granted?

ANSWER

The question of DC9 flights in particular in and out of Gove is a vexed one. I have been having correspondence with the federal Minister for Transport, Mr Ralph Hunt, on this matter for quite some considerable time. At present, there is a DC9 flight operated by TAA which overflies Gove on its way between Darwin and Cairns. I have asked the Minister for Transport if he would give permission for this flight to land at Gove on each occasion. Before Christmas, I met with the Minister for Transport in Canberra and with his departmental head. The minister indicated to me that matters of air safety - and he categorised this as such - are left to the professional head of his department. Thus, I received short change from the Minister for Transport although I did query why one Ansett and one TAA DC9 were allowed to land in Gove at present. The obvious answer is that it is safe because the 2-airline system operates.

It is quite clear that as many F28s as wish can land and take off in Gove on any day of the week. The minister and his departmental head were quite clear about that. They consider the F28 to be different to the DC9 in that the pilots have a better view out of the windows. I am told that the problem is that there is no control tower at Gove. I have asked the Minister for Transport formally that, if he maintains his objection to DC9s landing in Gove, he should start the construction and manning of a control tower in Gove.

I consider that his objections are ludicrous. If F28s can come and go at will, why shouldn't DC9s or even Jumbos if the airstrip could take them. I cannot see any distinction between one jet aircraft movement. For the minister to tell me that the degree of visibility out of a particular aircraft's cockpit is such that it renders it unsafe for it to land at Gove without a control tower is so much crass nonsense. If the visibility is not sufficient, the aircraft should not be in operation in Australia.

However, I do have some pleasure in announcing that the minister has agreed to allow this school special to land. I see that hopefully as the thin end of the wedge because, if it is safe for this extra plane to land on one occasion - full of school kids - why would it not be safe on another occasion?

Federal Plant Variety Rights Bill

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he expressed to the federal government his support for that government's Plant Variety Rights Bill currently before parliament and, if so, when and in what form was his support expressed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Northern Territory government has supported the plant variety rights legislation over a considerable period of time. I think it has been before the Australian Agricultural Council on 3 occasions. I cannot remember saying very much about the scheme at the Agricultural Council meeting but the consensus arrangements of council indicated Northern Territory support.

The system of plant variety rights is a system whereby the breeder of a variety is believed to claim ownership of the material. This may or may not involve his charging a fee for others to use this superior plant material. Some 22 countries have some form of plant variety rights and the system is recognised worldwide. The Plant Variety Rights Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in May 1981, and allowed to lie on the table of the House to include public debate.

At the recent Australian Agricultural Council meeting in Adelaide in February, it was agreed that the legislation should proceed in parliament in accordance with the present draft. The Commonwealth minister has advised, in keeping with the expressed interest of the states, that the Commonwealth has sole responsibility for the funding of the scheme once it becomes operational but that the issue of the plant variety rights is not at all a clearcut case for or against legislation. However, the Northern Territory government still believes that the plant variety rights is in the best interests of local and national agriculture and should be supported.

Emergency Services Heliport in Alice Springs

Mr D. W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has he considered the proposal to provide land for an emergency services heliport next door to St John's Ambulance, Telegraph Terrace, Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have very little knowledge of this matter and am advised that the department has been unable to give full consideration to an application which has been received in this regard as there are considerable details required before a decision can be made.

However, it was pointed out that the Sacred Sites Authority's recent registration of 2 trees in the vicinity has complicated the matter anyway.

Regulations to the Education Act

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When are the regulations to the Education Act going to be promulgated?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to give a decisive answer. It certainly did not happen in August as I indicated about last February. I will find out the information for the member. I might add that, in detailed examination of the proposed regulations, it was found that the act may well be deficient in respect to the registration of school councils, particularly if the government and school councils are to get together on financial control of school-based funding. It may well be that greater protection needs to be afforded to school councils by way of the principal legislation rather than by regulations. That is the reason for the delay. I shall take the matter up as soon as I can with my colleagues and come back to this place if that is necessary.

Caretakers for Housing Commission Flats

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I have recently been approached, with regard to positioning caretakers in Carinya flats. Has reconsideration been given to placing caretakers in flats run by the Housing Commission and, if not, can this issue be raised again?

ANSWER

I undertake to have this matter examined again. I am aware that the commission has had caretakers in flats in the past and found the system did not work very well. I understand that there is considerable difficulty in getting the somewhat unique type of person suitable for handling the difficulties and, no doubt, continuous stream of complaints that may well be received by any caretaker. Everyone can only stand so much of such things. However, in conjunction with the Housing Commissions I am having a very close look at the situation in regard to one particular set of flats in Darwin. Perhaps this examination can be extended to other areas such as the flats mentioned by the honourable member for Port Darwin.

Possible Government Land Purchases on New Estates

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government purchased or does it intend to purchase blocks of land at the North Lakes Country Club Estate and Brinkin and, if so, for what purpose?

ANSWER

I have no details with me as to whether or not the government proposes to purchase land at the North Lakes Country Club Estate.

Plenty Highway Reconstruction

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will construction commence on the Plenty Highway utilising the \$700,000 recently announced by the minister? Will this construction include that allocation of funds already announced in the 1981-82 budget?

ANSWER

The continuation of sealing of the Plenty Highway is an ongoing project and \$700,000 was allocated in the 1981-82 capital works program. Work is to commence shortly. I am seeking a further \$700,000 from my colleagues for continuation of that program next year.

UN Convention on Discrimination against Women

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

What stage has been reached in the consultations being held between the Australian and Northern Territory governments regarding the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and in what areas, if any, does the Northern Territory government have reservations about the convention?

ANSWER

It is very pleasing that the honourable member for Nightcliff has asked me this question. I intended to raise this matter in general business today in the course of debate on a certain bill. I would prefer to give a detailed answer to this if the honourable member will place the question on notice. However, I will attempt to answer it as best I can at the present time.

My recollection is that, at the standing committee meetings of the Attorneys-General where this matter is being dealt with, the Northern Territory has not expressed any reservations. I do not attend all of these meetings, Mr Speaker. There are 3 or 4 meetings of the standing committee every year, and usually I only manage to get to 1 or 2 a year. However, to the best of my knowledge, the department has not sought approval from me to express reservations and therefore I do not think that we have expressed any reservations to the particular provisions of the convention. We dealt with part of it at the standing committee meeting at Queenstown in New Zealand recently. I think that we are quite substantially through it. My recollection is that the method of dealing with it is to take the convention clause by clause. I think it has been ratified by the Commonwealth government although I cannot say that for certain. The convention really affects the laws of the states and the Territory more than those of the Commonwealth. The situation is that each particular clause has to be examined in the light of what effect it would have on any particular law of the states or a territory, and remedial action, if such is necessary in any particular case, has to be instigated.

To the best of my knowledge and recollection, the Northern Territory is certainly not throwing any hurdles in the way of the early resolution of this matter. I shall obtain further details for the honourable member if she will be good enough to place the question on notice.

Primary Industry Assistance to Sarawak

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise what assistance, if any, will be offered to the government of Sarawak in the field of primary industry?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has had a policy of assistance and closer cooperation with the South-east Asian nations over a considerable period. We have in the past extended professional services to Indonesia and Malaysia in the form of veterinarians working on foot and mouth eradication programs. We have developed a very close friendship with South-east Asia over the period since self-government.

In January this year, following our visit to Sarawak in October 1981, members of the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation visited Darwin and the Northern Territory. They were here to discuss their own development plans in respect of retail meat production in their state. They looked at cattle stations and were generally guided by officials of the Northern Territory government. As a result of their visit and a request for further technical assistance by the Chairman of the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, the Northern Territory government has agreed to provide technical assistance in the form of one qualified official to stay in Sarawak for 6 months to assist the Sarawak government to produce plans for retail meat and processed meat introduction. We look forward to our continued relationship with this region and we see it as a great benefit to the Northern Territory.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister announced his intention in the August sittings that a new Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill would be introduced in the next or following sittings. When does he now anticipate introduction of this new legislation?

ANSWER

This sittings.

Liquor Legislation

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

My question concerns the Liquor Amendment Bill and Summary Offences Amendment Bill presently before this Assembly. Has the Liquor Commission or any other government instrumentality to his knowledge prepared a map of Darwin showing the licensed outlets and the areas of Darwin which will be affected if the proposed bills come into effect? If so, would be made available to the Assembly that information prior to the committee stage of the bills?

ANSWER

I am of the view that there is a map. It has been some months since I have seen it. It was drawn up by the committee that reviewed the legislation in the first place. I will endeavour to obtain copies of the map and have them presented to the Assembly today. If the maps cannot be made available in time, I still propose to proceed with amendments this afternoon and then provide the maps as soon as possible to the member.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

Nhulunbuy - Year 7 Students

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will Nhulunbuy remain the only town in the Northern Territory where Year 7 students are forced to go to high school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not think the member is correct. That occurs in another centre that you ought to be fairly familiar with, Sir, and in Tennant Creek although now there is a primary school and high school as separate entities in the latter town. In those centres, it has been necessary to have Year 7 children attend high school although the government has adopted a policy that that will not generally be the case. I suppose that 30% of parents would disagree with that but the other 70% would oppose the idea of Year 7 students going into high school. In the case of Nhulunbuy High School, it is a matter for constant review.

Satellite Programs for Outback Communities

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position regarding satellite programs for outback communities bearing in mind Intelsat 4 and its waning working life, the coming into operation of Intelsat 4A in October, the Indonesian satellite Palapa and the wholly Australian-owned domestic satellite coming into operation in 1985?

ANSWER

The international satellites Intelsat 4 and Intelsat 4A are owned and operated by an international consortium. It is possible to pick up ABC television signals via Intelsat 4, using a specially designed earth station placed in the area of the satellite's footprint. When Intelsat 4A is launched, the position of the footprint will change and there may also be a change in signal strength which could affect television reception. It may also be possible to pick up television signals from the Indonesian satellite Palapa with suitable earth station equipment. The domestic satellite, Aussat, should provide a full range of communications services to all areas of Australia when it is launched in 1985.

Flagpole at Sanderson Clinic

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In these days of austerity, why was a flagpole erected outside the Sanderson Health Clinic last week at a cost exceeding \$2000 when, in a few months time, the Sanderson clinic will be moving to new accommodation opposite Casuarina shopping centre?

ANSWER

The short answer would be poor communication. It has been no secret for some months now that the Sanderson centre would be vacated and the clinic moved to Casuarina. The establishment of flagpoles at government buildings throughout the Northern Territory is a matter between the Department of Transport and Works and the Department of the Chief Minister. If this expenditure has been incurred, it can only be put down to poor communication.

Liquor Legislation

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has he considered an amendment which would allow the consumption of liquor in a public place within 2km of premises licensed when the licence was not operating? I hope I have made my question quite clear.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

Mr Speaker, that was about as clear as mud. Can I offer an invitation to the honourable member to join with the Liquor Commission officers during the lunch break, or at some other convenient time, to go over the problem that she is raising? It might be more fruitful than passing it backwards and forwards here.

Trees Provided by Conservation Commission

Mr D. W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many trees has the Conservation Commission planted or given away since 1978?

ANSWER

The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission commenced tree planting and the giving of trees for planting programs on 1 July 1978 or thereabouts. This program was subsequently taken over by the Conservation Commission which is continuing with it. Some 500,000 trees have been planted or given away from the Darwin nurseries of the Conservation Commission, and from its Alice Springs nurseries 200,000 trees have been planted or given away. Honourable members will probably be surprised at the numbers of those trees: 700,000 in total. There are some signs of improvement throughout the Territory as a result of the very fine work of the Conservation Commission and of the local councils in their various areas. I believe the program is a worthwhile one and the Conservation Commission will be continuing its tree planting efforts throughout the Territory.

We have a 3-stage program to upgrade the Botanical Gardens. The first stage of that program is already under way. There is a 3-year or 5-year plan in respect of Darwin. Funds were given to Alice Springs council and to the councils of Tennant Creek and Katherine this and last year to assist them in urban beautification proposals. I believe that, whilst an enormous amount of work has obviously been done, there is still considerably more work to be done. But those 700,000 trees is an indication of the extraordinary effort that is being put into this work by the Conservation Commission and the quite large sums being allocated annually by this government to these very worthwhile projects.

Mudginberri Station Buffalo Export Operation

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Did he agree to provide land for the manager of Mudginberri Station to assist that person in developing a buffalo export operation involving 1000 head of buffalo? Was part of the arrangement the sale of buffalo to Beatrice Hill Research Station for a fifth of their market value and did he fail to honour his commitment to provide the land causing this project to be abandoned?

ANSWER

No promises have been made to anybody to give him land to set up a buffalo farm. If an application has been made, it has probably been made through the proper channels and it will come before the government in due course.

NTEC Power at Newcastle Waters Station

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Electricity Commission is to install an electricity generator set at Newcastle Waters Station and, if so, what is the justification for installing a public power supply to a community the size of that at Newcastle Waters Station?

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

ANSWER

I do not have details of this matter to hand. I will advise the member in due course.

RAAF Noise Level Demonstrations

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

During the recent Parliamentary Public Works Committee hearings on the RAAF Stage 1 works associated with the stationing of a Tactical Fighter Squadron at the RAAF Base in Darwin, the question of noise levels was raised and both the council and the Northern Territory government made submissions on the noise levels. At that time, the Defence Department witness stated that it could arrange for appropriate demonstrations to demonstrate those noise levels. Is the Chief Minister aware of those proposals and, if so, has a date been set for such a demonstration to be held?

ANSWER

I understand from the Commanding Officer at the RAAF base here in Darwin that tests will be held in the near future. In fact, the Parliamentary Public Works Committee suggested 2 tests should be conducted: for any untoward effects at night and for noise levels during the day. The RAAF has advised that a Mirage aircraft will be in Darwin the evening of 23 March 1982 for assessment of any unusual effects during the evening, and on the morning of Wednesday 24 March 1982 for the purpose of demonstrating the noise levels associated with the proposed engine test facility.

Contrary to the interjection by the member for Fannie Bay, I instructed the Director-General, who put the government's submission to the Parliamentary Works Committee, to raise the matter of the engine test facility and the associated noise there from. Of course, I have raised this myself with RAAF authorities. The demonstration will allow for the scientific measurement and recording of noise levels as well as for a subjective assessment by the public. It is understood that the RAAF will be making a public announcement on this matter so that the public is fully informed that the demonstrations are taking place.

I understand that the RAAF will be extending an invitation to all members of this House and Aldermen of the Darwin city council to attend the demonstrations on the Wednesday morning. Unfortunately, I will be precluded from attending these demonstrations myself by a prior commitment to attend a field day at the Douglas-Daly farms. I suppose other members will be caught in that clash of interests. No doubt, observers can be sent by those people who are interested and I understand that the Minister for Transport and Works will be on hand to represent the government.

NTDC Loans for Farm Machinery

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Farmers needing loans from the Northern Territory Development Corporation for farm machinery can obtain the necessary money only through a mortgage or a second mortgage on their farm. Could he explain why this mortgage procedure is necessary and why the NTDC refuses to grant loans on the normal basis of a bill of sale over machinery?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the procedures that the member outlined. I will look into the matter and let him know later today.

Closure of Causeways in Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise who has the legal authority to close causeways in Central Australia and on what basis can roads and causeways be closed, particularly during floods?

ANSWER

Power to temporarily close roads outside a municipality are vested in the Minister for Transport and Works. The circumstances and procedures by which roads may be temporarily closed are contained in section 11 of the Control of Roads Act. In Central Australia we give the area manager for Alice Springs the power of delegation to temporarily close a road in a municipal area to the local corporation under section 313 of the Local Government Act. Powers to permanently close a road are vested in the Executive Council. If a causeway forms part of a road, then the Control of Roads Act or Local Government Act equally applies.

Katherine Hospital

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. What plans has he for Katherine Hospital to become a regional centre?

ANSWER

As far as is practicable, it would be the department's wish to see the delivery of health services to the people of Katherine come from Katherine as a regional base. Katherine is geographically ideally situated to provide several services that the department could offer. Let me say that the establishment of the Aboriginal Health Workers Training School in Katherine, as distinct from Darwin, would have a great deal of benefit for the people going to it, the department and the hospital. Having the school in a hospital of that size would also enable the students going to the school to have practical hospital experience in some of the things that they will be confronted with in the bush. That is something that is lacking in the Health Workers Training Program at the moment.

Members are already aware that the transfer of the leprosy unit to Katherine is imminent and that there will be some very substantial side benefits to that. To start with, the pathology laboratory will go from East Arm to Katherine and that will enable us to provide for the first time a very substantial pathology service at the Katherine Hospital. The leprosy pathological unit is quite a substantial one and will have a lot of spin-off benefits to the centre as a whole.

Also, the Department is very keen to see the microsurgery unit which is now operating out of the leprosarium at East Arm transferred to Katherine because there is a great deal of work that can be done in that area in the provision of inner ear and middle ear surgery that is not currently being undertaken. People working in the microsurgery unit would be well-qualified and equipped to be involved in this particular ear surgery. This is a new development.

Because Katherine is a hospital that is much cheaper to run, there are many patients from outlying areas who could be as well accommodated in Katherine as they could be in Darwin Hospital. The Darwin costs are about exactly double Katherine costs. If a mother in the bush has a baby that needs 3 or 4 weeks in hospital because it is run down, that sort of service could be provided at Katherine.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

I see a great number of services coming to Katherine as a result of some of the department's new initiatives. The department is looking at what options it has to improve its service to the people and to provide a better service for the same amount of money.

Compulsory Destocking

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the minister received recommendations from his department that compulsory destocking should be carried out on certain properties in the Territory as part of the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign following recent legislation enacted in this Assembly? If so, has he declined to give ministerial authority for destocking to proceed?

ANSWER

The question of destocking was raised extensively during conferences with pastoral industry representatives during 1981. The very words alarm me quite considerably because of the cost involved, but that is not to say that the eradication program which has been proceeding for quite some years should not proceed. The question revolves around this destocking question. I am reluctant to use this as any formal policy. The day will come when some destocking will have to be undertaken. The word 'destocking' puts fear into the hearts of pastoralists. With so many feasibility problems in the running of these properties - inflation, high costs and costs that cannot be passed onto the consumer - it is obvious that station owners are very concerned about the future. Mr Speaker, I will be making a statement later this afternoon on the current status of the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program.

Vacant Land Behind Millner Primary School

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What does the Department of Education intend to do with the vacant piece of land under its control at the rear of Millner School?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the lot referred to is lot 8643. It is a piece of land that was set aside in 1979 for further educational purposes. The Department of Education is hard-pressed to provide educational services much less look after vacant Crown land. As a result, the land has become somewhat unkempt. Local people in the area have expressed concern about the hazard of snakes and so on. I notice that Millner Primary School students are here at the moment so no doubt they have some interest in the matter raised by the member for Millner.

At present, the land is zoned open space 1, public recreational use. It would be the government's intention that it remain so zoned. It is quite obvious that it is not required for educational purposes. I intend to write to the Department of Lands indicating that lot 8634 is no longer required by the Department of Education and should be returned to it for the purpose for which it is zoned.

Incidentally, there is a Millner Development Plan and I understand the recommendation to the Planning Authority is that the piece of land remain available to the public which, of course, includes students of Millner Primary School and residents generally, particularly in the northern suburbs. Upon its return to the pool of vacant Crown land, lot 8634 will remain for the purposes of the public. That means that its present untidy state will have to be addressed with the intention to maintain it properly as open space. One would hope in the very near future to see an improvement in the condition of that land.

Effect of Palmerston on Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Could he assure me that the building and development of Palmerston will in no way be detrimental to the water supply and turning off of available subdivided land in the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I assume that the honourable member's question on water supply and availability of land are connected, because I cannot see any way in which the development of Palmerston would affect the ability of private land-owners in the rural area to subdivide land. To the extent that subdividers may be required to supply water reticulation, it is true that there could be an effect if Palmerston was taking an undue share of resources in the area. I am advised that the Palmerston development water supply will be taken from the trunk delivery mains which supply water from the Darwin River Dam to Darwin. The information I have from the Department of Transport and Works is that this will not affect the amount of water which would be available for subdivisions in the Darwin rural area.

Bridge and Carriageway at Mouth of Rapid Creek

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is planning and survey presently under way regarding a possible bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek and a carriageway to take people from Brinkin into the city and, if so, what level of carriageway is anticipated?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the proposal to bridge the Rapid Creek area was first put forward in the form of a cycle path or bridge. The estimated cost was in the order of about \$600,000. At the time, I mentioned to the department that if \$600,000 was to be spent on a cycle bridge perhaps a proposal should be examined to bridge the Rapid Creek estuary with a two-lane vehicle causeway - subject, of course, to environmental recommendation, Cabinet approval on financing, and a whole host of other things pertinent to such a development. It was really only an idea; it is not a firm proposal. Government is unaware of it. It was just an idea that I put forward to my department to have a look at. If there is any feasibility to it, then I will put a proposal to Cabinet and the people.

Alice Springs Meeting of Department of Health Executives

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What was the purpose of a meeting at the Alice Springs Casino on Saturday 6 March between the minister, the secretary of his department and some officers of his department from Elliott and Tennant Creek? How did they travel to the meeting and how was the meeting financed?

ANSWER

The meeting that was held on the weekend was 1 of 3 held last weekend in Alice Springs. It was a meeting of departmental officers and myself. The assistant secretary, southern division, the rural medical officer from the Barkly region, the 2 nursing sisters from Elliott, the area matron for the Barkly region, Dr Fleming and myself had a meeting for over 3 hours on the way in which health care is to be delivered to people in the remote areas in that region. Let there be no doubt that consultation and management decisions coming from within the department are on the basis of the best possible service that can be provided and that consultation is going right through to the grassroots level. When I have a meeting of that nature

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

I prefer everybody to be there so there is no misunderstanding about who said what. Because of the concerns of the sisters in Elliott and the rural matron, who has difficulties at the moment providing staff to remote areas, it was absolutely essential that the meeting be held as soon as possible. Had it not been held last Saturday, it would not have been possible for a further 2 or 3 weeks. At my request, Dr Fleming arranged for the staff to be brought to Alice Springs which was the most convenient point for all people concerned. I add that 2 of the other meetings that were held in that town involved people from interstate and one person from overseas who came to Alice For that meeting on that day. While I would have preferred to have avoided the expense of meeting, the most important thing was to set the foundations and ensure everybody in the department was aware of what is to be done concerning the new programs for the delivery of health care in remote areas.

It is my intention to work right through the Northern Territory, to go to every place where we deliver health care, to talk to everybody involved and, where necessary, to take with me the rural managers and departmental officers concerned in providing support for those people in the rural areas. I have no false illusions that many people in the rural areas feel abandoned from time to time. That is something we will change. I am happy to work at it for the rest of my period in this job. I have no intention of restricting my travel to the remote areas just because there is a cost involved. My experience is that, by attempting to save an air fare or not to go for another reason, a few bob might be saved on the one hand but, on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of dollars may go down the drain. I like to see where the money is going.

Water Supply Under Essential Services Program

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What population level is required for the installation of a water supply under the essential services program? Has such a water supply been installed at Newcastle Waters Station and is it being maintained by the government under the essential services program?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

The palm leaf beetle continues on its path of destruction. Are we any closer to approving the introduction of a wasp to the Darwin area to control the palm leaf beetle?

ANSWER

I am informed that eradication of the palm leaf beetle by spraying insecticides has ceased largely because of the illegal planting of palms outside the quarantine area. Infestations were confirmed in the Nightcliff area for the first time in September. Approval has been received from the relevant authorities for the erection of warning signs. An application has been made to Commonwealth Quarantine to import the parasite *Tetrastichus brontispae* for laboratory testing. Further information on the host specificity of the parasite was requested and this has been sent to it. This means that the parasite works only on the palm leaf beetle and no other. The Director-General of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries has confirmed his organisation's preparedness to receive under quarantine and

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

safety test the palm leaf beetle parasites. The parasites will be held in Queensland and bred up to a population level for eradication purposes. This is expected to take 12 months.

The task force at its last meeting on 23 February agreed to send Mr Ted Fenner to Western American Samoa to study the parasite in its natural habitat. A 10-day visit has been organised from 21 April 1982.

Funding for Teacher Aides on Aboriginal Outstations

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has any of the \$100,000-plus that has been provided to the Department of Education by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for the employment of teacher aides on Aboriginal outstations been utilised?

ANSWER

The figure is \$125,000 and the answer is yes.

Supply of Services to Commercial Establishments

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consideration does he give to the supply of services such as roads and water to commercial establishments in the interests of Territory development?

ANSWER

Every reasonable consideration is given to the supply of water services to commercial establishments and any proposal dealing with water supplies would be treated on its own merits. With regard to the upgrading of roads, we have to be careful because, whilst commercial establishments are moving out to the rural area, the money supply for the construction of roads is not inexhaustible. We need to have our priorities in order and ensure that main traffic roads are given priority over isolated instances where industry in an area might be established.

NTDC Loans to Nurserymen

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Given that a nurseryman's assets are in living plants, why did the NTDC refuse the normal lending procedure of a crop lien for farmers wanting to borrow money?

ANSWER

I will find out and let the member know.

Opinion Survey on Poker Machines

Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

Why is the government not prepared to provide the Assembly with details of an opinion survey about poker machines in clubs since it has been prepared to release the same details about poker machines in casinos?

ANSWER

It seems to me that the opposition has not got the message. This matter was raised before. The government said that the study was a confidential document. It was wideranging on the subject of gaming throughout the Territory. The information is in-house information and will not be released.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

We have said that many times. The opposition can save its breath and the House's time by not bothering to ask again.

Solar Power for Yulara Tourist Village

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House the current status of the solar power project proposed for the Yulara Tourist Village in Central Australia?

ANSWER

In fairness to the member, I should say that there is a great deal of behind-the-scenes work going on with this project at the moment. I think that it would be more appropriate if the question were put on notice.

Boat Ramp at Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the government intend to make good an undertaking to construct a boat ramp adjacent to the Nhulunbuy township?

ANSWER

If it is a commitment of the government, of course it would. I would need to check it out exactly. I would certainly be happy to advise him later in the sittings.

Relocation of Department of Mines and Energy in Tennant Creek

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Tennant Creek section of the Department of Mines and Energy been relocated from the government office block to privately-owned premises and, if so, what is the reason for the move and what is the cost of the new accommodation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of any move.

Proposed Entrance to new Airport Terminal

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In response to a question on notice, he stated that the proposed entrance to the new airport terminal would leave McMillans Road between Rapid Creek and Rapid Creek Road. What plans, if any, are there to upgrade McMillans Road and Rapid Creek Road as a result of this decision?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Dental Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the Dental Act been reviewed as yet and, if it has been reviewed, when are we likely to see legislation before this Assembly?

ANSWER

This is more commonly known as the 'Tooth Fairies Act'. I am happy to advise the House that the Dental Act is ready to come before the House. There

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

has been a last-minute hitch in consultation with the dental fraternity in the Northern Territory. I hope to introduce the bill in the next session.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he give a report to the Assembly on the progress of negotiations for the development of Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

I could give a brief report this morning on negotiations proceeding for the development of Yulara Tourist Village. I can certainly assure members that negotiations are well in hand and it is hoped that work will commence at the Yulara site within 2 months or so. That is subject to satisfactory documentation in relation to the funding arrangements and all the other legal niceties that must precede the embarkation of a project involving as it does the eventual commitment by the government to the expenditure of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money. I should make it clear that, when I say the 'expenditure of taxpayers' money', that is a contingent commitment because it is proposed at the outset that the total project be funded from private sources and the government will have what amounts to an option to purchase those facilities within the project that are in fact government facilities, such as police stations. For the first 5 or 10 years, the government will leave those facilities.

The government will be giving a guarantee of performance of the terms of the loan. In due course, I have no doubt that full details of these transactions, subject to the approval of the various lenders, will be made public knowledge. I do issue that caveat, Mr Speaker. I am quite prepared to disclose anything in relation to the Yulara project because I think that the Territory government and the Territory itself should be fairly pleased that it has been able to gain national interest in this project and to get it carried out on what amounts to a similar arrangement to the New South Wales government's funding of the Eraring Power-station. Whether the bankers and the various financial institutions who are involved wish wideranging publicity to be given to the various details, I do not know. I think it would probably be better if I gave a detailed statement to the Assembly at the next sittings because I believe that I will have many more facts to report on at that stage. At this stage, negotiations, to cut it short, are proceeding. There is every sign that they will be concluded shortly and every expectation that work will commence within 2 months or so.

Child Health Unit in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the future of the Child Health Unit next door to the council chambers in Alice Springs been decided and are there any plans to establish a child health unit on the East Side.

ANSWER

I assume the honourable member is referring to the Child Health Unit on the council grounds in Alice Springs. About a year and a half ago, I received a representation from His Worship the Mayor saying that our health centre was on their patch and it looks pretty dreadful compared to the new corporation complex we have just built. He asked us to move out and push it over. I put it to him that, if he could provide free space for the health centre in the new corporation buildings, that might be a possibility. He

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Wednesday 10 March 1982

did not warm to that at all. He felt that there should be some sort of remuneration. I was not quite sure of the basis of his thinking. It seemed all right for us to accommodate him but it was not all right for him to accommodate us. I followed the matter up with the department. It turns out that the block on which the health centre stands is a special purpose lease held by the department. In fact, we are the owners of the building. We inherited the building and have been operating it for many years as a community health centre and a child clinic.

There are several aspects of the building that are being reviewed by the Department of Health in Alice Springs. It was built in 1956 and the complexion of Alice Springs has changed very considerably over the years. There is a review now as to whether the building is ideally situated for the services that we wish to provide. If it is not ideally situated, the department will look at alternative sites. One of the considerations has been to try to obtain rooms in some of the education facilities on the east side if that was acceptable to the Department of Education and the minister who is also from Alice Springs and has an understanding of the problem.

The review on the distribution of community health and infant health services in Alice Springs will probably continue for some months. Where possible, we will try to accommodate the council. If it is absolutely essential that we stay in the present premises, it would not be unreasonable that, in the next year, we should make an effort to make that building more attractive in order to fit in with the decor of the new council complex. If the member wishes, I would be happy to provide him with a departmental briefing on the issues.

Assistance to External Students

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Education Department have any plans to assist external students with compulsory residential school costs at southern universities? For example, a University in New England requires Bachelors of Letters to attend 2 residential periods during each year?

ANSWER

The matter is somewhat complicated. I certainly undertake to examine the matter and advise the member later. The Commonwealth government has retained the responsibility of assistance to tertiary students. No state provides the type of help which the honourable member refers to. The Commonwealth in its subventions to the states does not make allowance for those sorts of matters. Since the introduction of the Territory Education Act, the Commonwealth has retained unto itself that responsibility and we are simply not funded to pick up these Commonwealth responsibilities.

Compensation for Assistance to Police in Rural Areas

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What consideration is given to country people receiving compensation for services in kind that they extend to the police in the performance of their duties?

ANSWER

Each particular case has to be considered on its merits. The consideration to be given to compensate for assistance that country people afford to police is something that has to be looked at each time assistance is extended.

I believe that police have a pretty good relationship with most country people. There is a degree of assistance rendered to police by country people in the performance of their duties. At the same time, country people appreciate the services of the police, or at least you, Sir, have told me on several occasions that they do. I think this matter has never really produced any great difficulties. There have been 1 or 2 cases where people have attempted to get the police to meet the account for certain services in which they engaged themselves, believing them to be necessary for the proper enforcement of the law. There has been disputation over those matters but, by and large, I believe the relationship is a good one and the police do everything they can to extend every consideration.

Pensioners' Air Fare Scheme Provisions

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the department been able to amend arrangements for the pensioners' air fare scheme to remove the need for pensioners to pay the full amount of the fare before receiving the government subsidy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter is under consideration.

ADMA Marketing Strategy and Mung Beans

Mr. B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has ADMA yet established firm export markets for mung beans and what progress is being made with ADMA marketing strategy generally?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would relish the thought of the Chairman of ADMA answering the question because it would keep the Leader of the Opposition occupied for about 2 days. I have no specific answer to his question but, if he puts it on notice, I will endeavour to get a reply for him.

Control of Salvinia Molesta

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is salvinia molesta a problem in Northern Territory waterways and, if so, are there any plans to attack it with the Brazilian weevil *cyrtabagaus singularis hastache* which was so successful in the control of salvinia in Lake Moondarra via Mt Isa?

ANSWER

I will have trouble pronouncing the name of this weevil. *Salvinia* is a problem in Northern Territory waterways. I refer the member for Alice Springs to a press release that was issued by the department on 1 March regarding the introduction of the weevil he has just mentioned. The release stated:

Salvinia is a free-floating water fern which was dispatched around the world as decoration for aquaria and ornamental fish ponds. According to the Department of Primary Production weeds agronomist, Mr John Gillette, salvinia's explosive growth and lack of natural predators make it a serious menace in Northern Territory waterways. The weed has been growing rapidly in the Nhulunbuy town lagoon since 1976. Chemical and mechanical control methods have not been successful. The Department of Primary Production has started a biological control program aimed at total eradication of the weed. Mr Gillette says that the answer to the

problem may be the small weevil. The weevil has already been used with spectacular results on Lake Moondarra near Mt Isa. The weed on Lake Moondarra was wiped out in 1 year after the weevil was released. Over that year, weevils munched through an estimated 50,000 tonne of salvinia. Adult weevils and their larvae actually reduced the weed to a soft pulp which sinks and decomposes. Mr Gillette said that the DPP released 850 weevils plus a big supply of salvinia into the Nhulumbuy lagoon last November. The extra salvinia was put in to give weevils enough food to multiply and fill the lagoon during the wet season. The first monitoring survey will take place early in April. This will tell weeds agronomists if the new line of attack is meeting with the success anticipated by the Department of Primary Production.

Alice Springs Meetings of Department of Health Executives

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer once more to last weekend's meetings. Given that the meetings were held in Alice Springs Casino rather than the hospital, and given that so many officers had to fly so far to attend the meetings, and given that the southern region of his department has been fronted with a bill for entertainment for the meetings, were the meetings cost-effective?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member made certain statements there that I do not have access to. I understand that, if the officers went to Alice Springs, they would be accommodated by the department or paid a travel allowance. That is what happens normally. If there are any extraneous expenses on top of that, I will take the matter up with the secretary of the department who organised the transport and accommodation. The honourable member may not be aware of it but I do not worry about the organisation of travel arrangements within the department; it is left to the department. I can say that the meal and accommodation and expenses that I had in Alice Springs were within my own travelling entitlements. I did not have any frills on the side. If the member is suggesting that we provide petty cash for everybody to play a few tables, then I think that we had better have a look at that too. I think the member is getting a little carried away with the whole thing and I can assure him that, from time to time, there will be a need to bring officers of the department in the rural areas to the main centres. It is happening every day with meetings of this nature. On this particular occasion, I stayed at the casino. The venue for this meeting was set around the hospital swimming pool and that was cancelled 10 minutes before the meeting because of the impending rain. If it was held at the casino and caused him some embarrassment, I am sorry.

Golden Staph at Casuarina Hospital

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is being done to contain the spread of golden staph at Casuarina Hospital?

ANSWER

I would like that question placed on notice.

Relocation of Police Regional Centre

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he supply the reasons why the Police Department moved its regional centre from Nhulunbuy to Jabiru?

ANSWER

I do not have details that would enable me to provide a good and sufficient answer to that question. I can say that, basically, I leave the organisation and administration of the police force to the Police Commissioner. I have spent a great deal of time in this Chamber being lectured by members opposite that that is the proper course for elected officials to adopt. Nevertheless, since elected officials bear the responsibility, I think they should have some say in what they are expected to bear the responsibility for. I can certainly see that there should be no political interference with public service appointments and I heartily endorse that tenet. As to the administration of departments, I think that politicians responsible for those departments should have a voice in the proposals.

However, such is my confidence in the Police Commissioner that I leave the ordering of the police force very largely to him. He did mention to me that he was proposing to move the headquarters of the police district in question from Nhulunbuy to Jabiru. The reasons that I recall him giving me were that the district extends even to the west of Darwin, and Nhulunbuy, unfortunately, is not accessible by road or by any other means other than by air. Quite an extensive police complex is being established at Jabiru. From the commissioner's point of view, it is more central to that district, more accessible to the people operating in that district and the facilities at Jabiru will be more modern and provide a better situation for the administration of the district.

I would not think that it would affect the police strength at Nhulunbuy to any significant degree. It would mean the transfer of the officer in charge of the district to Jabiru but the police strength at Nhulunbuy would remain the same. From the number of court proceedings that take place in Nhulunbuy, the town could be presently considered as being over-policed. However, there are no proposals that I know of to reduce the police strength there.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

Rural Roads Conference

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the House when and where the next Rural Roads Conference will be held?

ANSWER

It will be held in Tennant Creek on 25 March.

Bilingual Program in Aboriginal Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The bilingual program in 4 Aboriginal schools was under evaluation last year and a report was expected to be ready for presentation to the accreditation panel in 1982. Has this occurred and have the 4 schools been accredited?

ANSWER

A program of accreditation has been going on for quite some time. The most successful bilingual program to date has been that at Yirrkala. It is worth pointing out that the panel came to the conclusion that, whilst there was a significant improvement in the performance of particularly that school, nonetheless the 2 primary objectives, literacy and numeracy, were not achieved to the level that the panel would like. However, I certainly saw fit to give interim accreditation to the program at Yirrkala for a 2-year period. At the end of that 2-year period, the matter will be further reviewed and hopefully lead to formal accreditation of the program. The other schools where the program is being conducted will also be under review during that period.

Licensing of Mortgage and Insurance Brokers

Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

Has the government made a decision regarding the licensing of insurance and mortgage brokers?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has not made a decision on the licensing of insurance brokers yet. We will have to have further discussions with members from the industry on it. However, to date no decision has been taken on whether or not to proceed with legislation on this matter.

Erection of Road Signs in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he give me details about the program for distribution of road signs in the rural area.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the moment, the Department of Transport and Works is engaged in erecting a series of guide and regulatory signs in the rural area. I believe that the program is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Circular Concerning Health Matters in Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He would recall that at last sittings objections were voiced in this Assembly about a certain circular issued by the Department of Education concerning health matters involving children being sent home without treatment. I understand the circular was withdrawn. Could he inform the Assembly what is happening now?

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the circular was withdrawn. I cannot give him information on the exact position at present. I thank him for the question. It is something that I needed a reminder on and I will follow it up.

Assessment of Sales Tax Rebate Program

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Has an assessment of the impact of the government's sales tax rebate program been undertaken and, if so, will he make copies of the assessment available to members of the Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not quite sure what the honourable member means by an assessment of the program. The government has not had any reaction from its initiatives to provide rebate for the sales tax on the freight component of products brought to the Northern Territory. The scheme is proceeding and we are making payments to the various bodies which comply with the necessary guidelines that have been laid down by Treasury. Applications are assessed and cheques are paid out. We have had assurances from wholesalers participating in the scheme that the scheme has had an effect on the prices of goods that they supply to the retail sector. From our point of view, the scheme is working and it has not been reviewed in any way.

Private Hospital in Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the fact that only one application has been received in response to tenders for the establishment of a private hospital at the old Darwin Hospital, what plans are under consideration for, firstly, the future use of the area that has been vacated by the old Darwin Hospital and, secondly, the establishment of a private hospital facility in another area?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has handed the keys and its former interest in the Darwin annex to the Department of Transport and Works. My colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, will be charged with the responsibility of the future use of the property. In answer to the second part of the member's question, only one tender was received for a use of a part of the old Darwin annex. That tender is now before Cabinet but I am able to say that it has requested certain financial assistance from the government in terms of upgrading and maintaining the property. It is highly unlikely that any favourable decision in this regard will be forthcoming.

I am still firmly of the view that, if it is possible to establish a private hospital in the Darwin area, we should proceed to do that. I have now asked the department to consider what options are available to us to have a private hospital started from scratch. I might also advise the House that we had nearly a dozen or more expressions of interest in the old Darwin Hospital when it was first advertised. Some people took one look at it and said there is no way that it could ever be run viably as a hospital. The fact that we received one tender seeking a lot of help would add a certain amount of weight to that argument. Given that it does not have a future as a private hospital, I have now asked the department to examine other possible options for the establishment of a private hospital in the Northern Territory.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

Brinkin Traffic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the Minister make available to the Assembly any maps and supporting documents prepared by his departmental officers regarding the options for the traffic flow from the new Brinkin subdivision?

ANSWER

When they are available, I will do so.

Consultation with Aboriginal Traditional Owners

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation, if any, took place with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens of Central Australia before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable the erection of a water tank?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Nhulunbuy Primary School

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

As the Nhulunbuy Primary School will fill to capacity during 1982, are there any plans to provide further accommodation for projected needs?

ANSWER

I would be pleased if the Nhulunbuy Primary School did reach capacity because it would indicate that the town is continuing to grow. I was unaware of that particular information. I will certainly check it out. If we can find the means, we will ensure that appropriate accommodation is available. I would certainly want to check the honourable member's figures notwithstanding that he does come from that region.

Ghan Service

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of recent press reports that the demand for berths on the new Ghan service Adelaide to Alice Springs is far in excess of berths available, can he advise whether he has had any correspondence with Australian National Railways to provide additional services on that line?

ANSWER

That has always been the Northern Territory government's policy and, from time to time, we have made requests to Australian National Railways to increase the capacity, especially of passenger services, on the line from Adelaide to Alice Springs. I am pleased to be able to inform members that a second weekly Ghan service is to be introduced on a 3-month trial basis from 2 May this year. The new service will leave Adelaide on Sundays and return from Alice Springs to Adelaide on Mondays. The number of persons carried between January and July 1981 compared with the same months in 1978 showed an increase of 269% northbound and 225% southbound. In those figures lies an object lesson for the airlines. It is obvious that they have pushed the cost of air travel to the stage where the public is not prepared to contemplate it. Many members may have seen an item on last night's ABC TV

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

news where it was possible to compare our air fares with United States' fares. I think it is possible to travel from New York or the east coast of the United States to San Francisco or Los Angeles for under \$100. An equivalent trip in Australia would cost at least in excess of \$300. This is what is putting people back on to the railroads, and good luck to them.

Bynoe Harbour Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What type of development is envisaged that would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road currently being constructed parallel to the old Mandorah Road? What parts of the Cox Peninsula will the road reach and where will it end? Could he give an estimate of the total cost of the planned work?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Motor-bike Club Activities at Thorak Reserve

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that section 107 known as Thorak Reserve at the corner of Branch and Campbell Roads in Berrimah is being used by a motor-cycle club for its activities to the detriment of the nearby rate-paying residents? How long will he allow this section 107 at Berrimah, which has been considered as land for the use of the Department of Primary Production, to be used for an antagonistic use - motor bike club use?

ANSWER

Neither I nor the department have had complaints about the activities of motor-cyclists on the area of land the member refers to. Section 107 is Crown land under the control of the Department of Lands and at present there are no development proposals in respect to this land. I will have the department investigate the suggestion that motor-cycle activities there are annoying nearby residents and see if we can find some way to prevent those activities continuing.

Home Purchase by Australian Public Servants

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What stage has been reached in negotiations with the Commonwealth government to allow Australian Public Servants to purchase their homes?

ANSWER

It is the policy of this government that Australian Public Servants should be able to purchase their homes and decide to become true Territorians and settle here if they so wish. Our policy does not mean a great deal other than it is a cause that we take up with the Commonwealth minister and Commonwealth officials from time to time. Both our representatives in the federal House or at least one of the senators and certainly the member of the House of Representatives have been pushing the case to Commonwealth ministers. We believe that it is unfair that they are currently barred. To date we do not seem to have had very much success. The Commonwealth has been putting the view that it finds it very expensive to continue to build houses in the Northern Territory. Notwithstanding those arguments, we will continue to press for the right of those people to buy their homes in the Territory and to settle here. I do not know how long it will be. It could be a long fight.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

Use of Public Facilities by Doctors in NT

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Are there private doctors using public facilities in Northern Territory centres and, if so, what contribution are they making to the cost of those facilities?

ANSWER

There would probably be 15 or 20 private practitioners in Darwin who have access to the Darwin Hospital. There is a part-time GP in Tennant Creek who is operating out of the Community Health Centre for half a day 3 times a week. There are a great number of people in the paramedical field that come into our hospitals on a sessional basis. Very shortly, we will have private specialists operating out of our hospitals in the Northern Territory on a sessional or a fee-for-service basis. There are a great many people in the Northern Territory in private practice who use the facilities of the department. This is a perfectly normal practice right throughout Australia. It is new to the Northern Territory at this stage but it has been going on in the states for about 50 years.

Remuneration for the use of these services depends on the circumstances. There are pretty formal guidelines for specialists and doctors who use facilities on fee-for-service or sessional basis. Most of these charges are laid down in agreements that exist between the department and each doctor. If a GP went to a place such as Groote Eylandt, I feel sure that we would be disposed to having a peppercorn rent just to have a GP operate out of the health centre that we have there. I think it would be futile to ask the person to build another premise when ours is underutilised. It would be an additional service that not only the department could offer but the individual could offer.

The short answer is yes. If he has special queries about persons using these departmental facilities, I would be happy to have him briefed. If the member has any suggestions on how private doctors could better utilise some of the resources we have and make better services available to the community as a whole, then I would be pleased to receive them.

The member would also be aware that, in Alice Springs, for instance, the congress doctors do not have access to the hospital and the wherewithall inside the hospital. I think that is not really totally productive. In the course of time, we should make all our facilities available to those doctors who need them to provide a service in the community, whether for private or government patients.

Licensing of Carpenters and Bricklayers

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the government introduce legislation requiring the licensing of carpenters and bricklayers similar to that legislation which applies to electricians?

ANSWER

I am curious as to why I should have been asked the question. I was not aware that amongst my ministerial responsibilities were carpenters and bricklayers. I do not have any objection because they are a very worthy group of individuals and artisans. I only wish that there were more qualified carpenters and bricklayers in this country.

I do not believe the government has ever considered registration of carpenters and bricklayers. As my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing says, we might as well consider registering carpetlayers, tram

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

conductors etc. It would get to the stage of being very unnecessary bureaucracy. In my view, there is a strong case for the registering of plumbers and gas fitters. Gas fitters are dealing in a very volatile area where considerable harm can occur if a job is not done properly.

The government has certainly considered registration of home builders. It has been urged to do so by the Master Builders Association. Our concern is that the industry would like to shut out new entrants to the home building industry. For the sake of home builders, we obviously want to ensure as much competition as possible. There are more problems than meet the eye, even with the registration of home builders. I do not see much of a case for registration of carpenters and bricklayers. I urge on the member for Nhulunby that we must try to remain as free as possible of red tape. I see this involving at least another 30 forms and 4 or 5 bureaucrats.

Assistance to People Stranded at Rabbit Flat

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A recent report indicated that a large number of people were stranded at Rabbit Flat northwest of Yuendumu over the last couple of days. Could he advise what assistance his department has offered to these people?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, from memory about 77 people, including 4 children, found themselves stranded in the Rabbit Flat area. I understand that they had travelled from Balgo Mission to Yuendumu for business purposes and were returning when they found they could proceed no further. They got as far as Rabbit Flat and Mr Farrens who owns the store there promptly ran out of food himself. Yesterday, some several hundred kilograms of admittedly very plain - but we hope nutritious - food was flown by police aircraft to Rabbit Flat and Mr Farrens kindly agreed to assist with its distribution.

Mr Speaker, I think there are some people from the Yuendumu area in the public gallery and I suppose they would have a wry grin about these people from Balgo getting stuck on roads with which they would be very familiar. I say 'roads' because the people from Balgo would be very familiar with the country but perhaps not so familiar with Northern Territory roads.

I understand that a number of 4-wheel-drive vehicles have left Balgo Mission for Rabbit Flat in order to assist these people to return home. I believe also that a conventional vehicle has traversed that road in the last couple of days, so hopefully the crisis is over. In events like this, it does not matter where people come from; whether they are Territory people or from across the border. Quite clearly, if they are in trouble, it is a matter for this government to assist them and we have done everything we can in this case.

Review of Mental Health Act

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In 1981, submissions were invited relating to a review of the Mental Health Act. What action does the government intend taking as a result of that review?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I was absolutely shattered by the number of submissions I received on the way the Mental Health Act is being administered and the activities involved. I think I have received 2 submissions from the general public. That means either it is working very well or it is working so badly that nobody is even going to worry about forwarding a submission.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

There are some amendments I would like to make to the act as a result of the submissions received. Probably they will be introduced during the June sittings of the Assembly. All in all the act seems to be working fairly well, although some minor problems have arisen. However, I think that we can deal with those without a great deal of controversy.

Breaking and Entering at Millner School

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the Department of Education have to prevent further breaking and entering at the Millner School?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, short of digging a moat around the primary school, one tends to wonder what the Department of Education can do to prevent breaking and entering. We run schools not concrete fortresses. In the face of behaviour of that sort, there is very little any Department of Education can do to prevent people who are determined to pursue it. It is very regrettable. Without completely altering the character of our schools - by putting mesh over windows and so on - we have very limited options in this regard. I certainly would not want to see alterations like that. We can only appeal to people on this. The damage is usually done by children and they should be made aware of the fact that they inconvenience their peers when they behave in this manner.

Disposition of Unserviceable Government Firearms

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

How are unserviceable firearms held by government departments disposed of, who makes the decision and what procedure is usually followed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure of the disposition of unserviceable firearms. The Registrar of Firearms has informed me that, as far as he is concerned, the position is as follows. It is for each particular department or statutory authority to determine if a firearm is unserviceable and take its own steps to dispose of it. The registrar has no firm policy which is applied to all departments in respect of this matter.

Final Proposal for the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he advise the Assembly of the progress that is being made on the development of the final proposal for the Northern Territory's brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition was not in the Assembly late yesterday afternoon when I presented a statement on the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication policy. I refer him to that statement.

Eye Specialist for Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when an eye specialist will be hired to replace the one in Alice Springs who was brought to Darwin.

ANSWER

I will refer that question to the Secretary of the Department and will advise the member as soon as I have information for him.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

Financial Assistance to Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he advise if any financial assistance is available for farmers experimenting with fruit and vegetable growth; for example, members of the Rare Fruits Council.

ANSWER

I am not aware of a special policy for people in that category. There are other special benefits available to farmers generally and in cropping development particularly. I will take on board the question that he raises and see if some further expansion of existing schemes can be undertaken.

Demolition of Wells Building

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it proposed to demolish Block 1, known as the Wells Building, which I believe is now uneconomic.

ANSWER

At the moment the department is deciding whether to call for tenders or to ask some private firms to put in a preferential quote. Once we have an estimate, I would be able to decide then when the Wells Building would be demolished.

Blood Tests for Drugs

Mr D. W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Are blood samples taken from drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents in the Northern Territory tested for drugs other than alcohol and, if not, will he undertake to investigate the feasibility of such testing and collection of statistical data.

ANSWER

My understanding is that it is required by law for drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents to have a blood sample taken. At the same time, I do not know whether other tests are taken.

If the member is referring to the possibility of testing for marijuana or some other drug in a person's body, I can only say that, at the time we dealt with the drug and the liquor legislation some years ago, there was no test available to detect whether people had been smoking pot or driving under the influence of a psychotropic substance. I will seek further information from the department and, if there are any advances in that area, I will advise the member accordingly.

White Paper on Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Honourable members would recall the successful efforts of the minister last year to attract public comment on the Green Paper on Education. Could he advise me of the status of the White Paper?

ANSWER

I have given a lot of thought to the question of producing a White Paper in the usual parliamentary sense. It has occurred to me now that that may not necessarily be the best way of approaching it. I have discussed with officers of the department the possibility of putting out policy decisions,

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

arrived at as a result of the excellent discussion and feedback on the Green Paper, in the form of booklets. Rather than having one massive document that people have to hunt through to find their own particular interest and in the interests of providing information on policies which have arisen from the Green Paper, very precise booklets of policy would be more appropriate. If I take that decision, we will shortly see the first of those booklets produced.

Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority does not have the funds to fence and signpost at least 4 sacred sites in Alice Springs which were registered at a meeting of the Authority on 11 February?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I might just point out to the member for MacDonnell that I am not the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. I exercise a liaison role on Aboriginal matters. I am well aware of the funding position of the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority. It has been given by the Northern Territory government the total amount of funds received by the Northern Territory government from the Commonwealth. The Territory protested at the level of those funds at the time and we have continued to protest. Only a couple of weeks ago, I wrote to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Prime Minister telling them that the authority would run out of funds by the end of April. To the best of my knowledge, I have not received a response but all previous responses from all levels of the Commonwealth government have been negative.

Natural Gas

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Recent reports have indicated natural gas finds both offshore in the Northern Territory and in Central Australia. Could he indicate whether it is intended to utilise those resources to provide cheaper energy for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The government has taken an initiative in purchasing from one operator in Central Australia sufficient gas reserves to operate the Alice Springs Powerhouse for the next 20 years. At this stage, there is no additional requirement for gas in the Alice Springs area. As explorers are finding gas, it is being tapped and left in the hope that eventually we will find a basin big enough to justify either sending gas to Darwin, to South Australia, New South Wales or some other market that needs it. Certainly, our own requirements for a long time to come are well in hand.

So far as the offshore gas is concerned, the indicators that the exploration companies have had are extremely exciting and could possibly have the potential to provide us with some power with gas. Whether it would be more economic than coal is an argument that could be debated at quite some length. We would be talking about a period of 7 to 10 years to get the gas inshore and an infrastructure cost that is so heavy at the moment that it would not be possible for us to pay off the infrastructure just for use in the Darwin powerhouse. Naturally, we would need to find another use for the gas such as a petrochemical works or export to Japan. I think that all of these things are possible but the most important thing that we have to do at the moment is to keep on punching holes in the ground. The results of that drilling are most important for the Northern Territory.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

Electricity Charges for Caravan Dwellers

Ms D'ROZARIO to the TREASURER

What steps have been taken to give caravan dwellers whose sites are individually metered the benefit of domestic electricity tariffs?

ANSWER

I could be wrong but I understood that caravan dwellers whose sites were individually metered were given domestic electricity tariffs. In fact, the electricity commission has advised caravan park operators that that is the case providing the operators are prepared to bear the cost of such a metering system. I do not have the full information before me. If the member writes to me, I will spell out the existing policy quite clearly.

Use of Government Vehicles

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

From time to time the issue of the use of government vehicles for purposes other than government business is raised. What is the Northern Territory government's policy on the use of government vehicles?

ANSWER

I am told about the misuse of government vehicles from time to time. I have also talked about this on talkback radio and in letters to the editor of the various so-called newspapers that circulate in this Territory. The government does have a policy which is many pages in length because it has to cater for quite a number of situations. It boils down to this: if people are entrusted with a vehicle in consequence of their employment in the public service, then that vehicle is for their use in the execution of their duty. The majority are further entrusted with the home garaging of the vehicle.

To my mind, this is a sensible and rational idea which saves the government the problems of maintaining security over those vehicles. Those public servants can drive the vehicles to and from work which, I suppose, is a quid pro quo to them for garaging the vehicle at home and taking more care of it than if they drew a different car from a store each day. This encourages better maintenance of government vehicles. It is usually in relation to home garaging of government vehicles that complaints of misuse arise. I have received complaints of vehicles with NT government number plates being seen carrying loads of stones and gravel on Saturdays and Sundays. Quite often, when these complaints are investigated, it is found that the people are in fact on the job. As in any system, there must be some abuse but this is quite a good policy. I think we introduced it 2 or 3 years ago. It has been updated from time to time. It seems to me that it is the most rational policy that a government could adopt in all the circumstances.

Fog Bay

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What negotiations have taken place between the federal and Territory governments in relation to an agreement on the operation of Fog Bay as a closed fishery?

ANSWER

The Chief Minister spoke to the Prime Minister about it and, prior to that, there were interdepartmental discussions.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

Medical Practitioners at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position regarding permanent medical practitioners practising at Jabiru?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the department has a permanent officer at Jabiru. It is the intention that there will always be a permanent doctor there. Whether the doctor is an officer of the department or a private practitioner is something that I can discuss with the member for Tiwi and the constituents in her town of Jabiru some time within the next 2 weeks. I do not know of any proposals not to have a permanent doctor at Jabiru. I am aware that there are already private dentists operating there. If the member has any fears to the contrary, she may wish to raise them with me at another time.

Model Bylaws for Local Government Authorities

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made in the preparation of model bylaws for local government authorities?

ANSWER

As members would be aware, the government had previously undertaken through the Local Government Association to provide local government with so-called model bylaws. When these model bylaws in a range of forms were presented to the Local Government Association, it was found that, because of the varying needs and sizes of the corporations throughout the Northern Territory, members of the Local Government Association could not agree among themselves as to what a reasonable and standard form was. Regrettably, we virtually had to completely abandon the model-bylaw system and, through the Local Government Association, we have again made the offer of the resources of the Department of Community Development's Local Government Division and the Department of Law to assist councils with their own bylaw making.

I understand this is now fairly well down the road and indeed a number of bylaws are about to come forward for approval by Executive Council. It is rather surprising that, what was indicated previously to us as being impossible - that is, individual councils making their own bylaws - is now according to the councils the only way of ever achieving bylaws. That is the current position. I am still hopeful that bylaws will be tabled in this Assembly pursuant to the normal procedures of the Subordinate Legislation and Tabled Papers Committee, certainly within the next 6 months.

Quite frankly, there has always been the capacity at law for local councils to make bylaws. I cannot understand why it has not been done. Hopefully now it will be.

Local Government at Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Have there been further discussions between the joint partners, the federal government and the Territory government to confer full local government status on Nhulunbuy and, if so, at what stage are the negotiations?

ANSWER

I have raised this issue with the people of Nhulunbuy. The Chief Minister did so again during his speech opening the Nhulunbuy High School. I am not certain how far negotiations have gone. I certainly know there is significant

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

reluctance on behalf of the company to enter into any such agreement. I do know that there is a significant backing from the community for a much greater say in their own affairs than exists at the moment. The people of Jabiru feel much the same way. That is an interesting one. We have been working on that for months. I notice now that a piece of legislation on that will be presented by the opposition spokesman. He was given a thorough briefing on exactly that by my department about 3 weeks ago so I dare say he has stolen the idea.

Nonetheless, it is a difficult area. The mining company believes it has certain asset considerations in relation to the rating of its own property. It is a difficult one. We are anxious to conclude negotiations with Nabalco and with the people of Nhulunbuy. But without the cooperation of the mining company, it will be a very difficult task indeed.

Dangerous Goods Act

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Dangerous Goods Act was assented to in January 1981. Can he explain to the Assembly why it has not yet come into operation?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put the question on notice. I cannot give her that answer off the top of my head.

Allegations of Employment of Underage Children at Marqua Station

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to an inquiry carried out by officers of his department into allegations of employment of underage children at Marqua Station. Will he table the results of that inquiry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, without knowing the content and nature of the report, if any, I cannot give that undertaking. If it is an internal document, I dare say I would decline to do so. If it is a document which contains information which it is in the public interest to have, then I would certainly do so.

Grain Receival Depot at Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he report on the progress of the grain receival depot at Katherine?

ANSWER

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority is in the process of concluding a major grain receival depot which will be operating in time for the 1982 harvest. The depot, costing \$489,000, will have facilities for storage and receival of grains, either bunkers or vertical silos, and a cool store where seed can be held from season to season. In addition, seed cleaning and grading equipment are to be installed to assist in the marketing of pasture seeds and mung beans. The depot will be managed by the authority in a manner that will bring grain receivals and handling into line with standards established in the other states.

We are hopeful that grain production will continue to increase to a stage where quantities surplus to the domestic market must be exported overseas. It is therefore essential that internationally-recognised standards for grain exports be introduced at this early stage so that the Northern Territory product will ultimately be acceptable on world markets. 75% of the expenditure incurred in the construction of the depot at Katherine has gone to

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Thursday 11 March 1982

Territory suppliers. Of the total \$489,000 cost of construction, just over \$250,000 has gone to Katherine contractors.

Petrol Sniffing at Maningrida

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will he table a report prepared by his department on petrol sniffing at Maningrida?

ANSWER

The answer to that question is precisely the same as the other one. I do not know in detail what is in that document. I have certainly scanned it. I intend going back and reading it very thoroughly. The document could well contain the names or sufficient information to identify individuals and it may not be in the public interest to make it public.

Health Clinic at Napperby Station

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of agreement being reached on a suitable site for the proposed health clinic at Napperby Station? If agreement has been reached, when will the clinic be erected?

ANSWER

I carry many answers around in my head but that is not one of them. I ask the member to put that question on notice.

Failure of Roads in Alice Springs

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is there any evidence of pavement failure on the roads constructed in both the Araluen and Sadadeen subdivisions in Alice Springs? If so, what action does the government intend to take on this matter?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any pavement failure. However, I will obtain information and provide it to the member later.

Jabiru Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

My question relates to this morning's ABC news. Did he hear this morning the ABC refer to the Jabiru hospital as being downgraded to the status of a health centre? That is at variance from what the minister said yesterday. Is the minister wrong or is the ABC wrong?

ANSWER

It is not like the ABC to be wrong; it generally gets everything right. On this occasion, I did not hear the ABC news. If it said that about the Jabiru health centre, I do not know what the basis of its information is because I advised the House 2 days ago that the future of the Jabiru hospital was a matter that the member for Tiwi and myself have to take up with the local people and mine management at the earliest possible time. I went through a range of reasons why that discussion was necessary, Mr Speaker. With all due respect to the ABC, if it broadcast that, it probably has wrong information.

Golden Staph at Casuarina Hospital

ANSWER TO QUESTION:

Mr TUXWORTH (Health) (by leave): Mr Speaker the honourable member for Sanderson asked a question yesterday about golden staph and I undertook to get the information she required. I regret that it was not available for yesterday afternoon. I have a briefing paper here that I will read, Mr Speaker. I think most members will find the contents of it interesting. It has been broken into a series of questions and answers and is not very long.

METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

What is it?

A bacterium which is resistant to all of the safe, commonly-used antibiotics. It can cause serious and even fatal infections in patients.

Whom does it affect most?

It affects vulnerable patients; for example, intensive care patients with multiple systems failure, low birth weight neonates, patients with depressed immune systems.

When was it first found in Darwin Hospital?

A patient transferred here from a Victorian hospital with an infected, discharging wound brought the organism to this hospital.

Is the organism under control at Darwin Hospital?

Darwin Hospital experience has shown that the organism can be controlled and at the same time normal patient services can be maintained.

What is the hospital doing about it?

Control of the spread of all infections, including MRSA, comes under the direct supervision of the Darwin Hospital Infection Control Committee. This Committee consists of the Medical Superintendent, various Medical Specialists and Nursing Staff, including a Registered Nurse whose full-time work involves all aspects of Infection Control practice.

The Infection Control Committee has a policy, which is reviewed as necessary, to control spread of MRSA.

The policy is aimed at:

- 1. Detecting all MRSA organisms.*
- 2. Isolating all patients with the MRSA organism from patients without the organism.*
- 3. Special effort is put into keeping the infection out of wards/units where patients who are very vulnerable are nursed. We have succeeded in keeping the organism out of the Children's Ward, the Special Care Nursery, the Obstetric Unit and Ward 3A where we nurse patients who have had implant surgery.*

All outbreaks of MRSA have been contained by the tightening of our control policies. While the organism is still in the Hospital, it is considered under control. The Infection Control Committee is of the opinion that we will not be rid of this problem bacterium in the foreseeable future but it is one that we shall continue to work on.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Development Corporation is to advance a loan of \$480,000 to a company called the Central Australian Development Corporation for the purpose of purchasing a site upon which to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs and that this hotel will eventually become part of the Hilton group of hotels? Is it further a fact that the loan is to be for a 10-year period and interest free?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government does propose a plan of assistance to establish a Hilton hotel in Alice Springs. The details are not all available to the government at this time. I would ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

Sale of Cattle by Department of Primary Production

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In Northern Territory Government Gazette No G9 of 5 March 1982, a sale made by Department of Primary Production for 92 head of cattle which cost \$6660 was shown under the heading 'Contracts Arranged'. Could the minister please give us details of this transaction and why it was necessary?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the purchase of these cattle from a station in Central Australia was undertaken to provide a sentinel herd for the blood-testing procedures undertaken regularly for blue tongue viruses. This is a monitoring program that we have undertaken for some years and will continue for some years to come. We purchased 40 heifers, 42 steers and 10 bulls, and paid an average price of \$72 per head.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Development Corporation is to advance a loan of \$1m in the first half of 1982 to a company called the Central Australian Development Corporation as assistance to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs which will eventually become part of the Hilton group of hotels? Is it further a fact that the loan is to be for a 10-year period, interest free for the first 5 years and thereafter to be repaid in the second 5-year period at 12%?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

Realignment of Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What progress has been made regarding the planned realignment of the Stuart Highway through Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Following the release of land by the Australian National Railways, I am pleased to say that work on the realignment is now scheduled for the 1982-83 financial year. It will involve significant improvement to the highway between Telegraph Terrace and Smith Street. Discussions on the proposed route are taking place between government departments and the Alice Springs council.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Tuesday 16 March 1982

My department perceives the design development as a matter of urgency. The development will eliminate hazardous Larapinta Drive, Telegraph Terrace, Railway Terrace and Wills Terrace intersections and provide for a new direct link between Larapinta Drive and Stott Terrace. The new intersection of Stott Terrace, Larapinta Drive and Stuart Highway will be controlled by traffic signals. I will be writing to the Mayor of Alice Springs advising him of these details.

Sealing of Virginia and Bees Creek Roads

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he give an indication when sealing of Virginia Road, which was promised to be finished in early 1981, will be completed, and when the government plans to seal Bees Creek Road?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to provide the member with that information. I will provide it to him later in the day.

Proposed Amendments to Poisons Act

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

He would be aware that the Northern Territory is out of step with the rest of Australia as far as the Poisons Act is concerned. Has the Poisons Act been reviewed as yet and when will amendments be introduced into the Assembly to make our act consistent with other acts in Australia?

ANSWER

I am aware that we are not in concert with the rest of the nation so far as legislative control over poisons is concerned. I am happy to advise the member that a great deal of work has been done on this within the department over the last 9 months. I am not able to advise when the legislation is likely to be presented to this Assembly after it has been to Cabinet.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Territory Development Corporation is to advance a further loan of \$1m in the 1982-83 financial year to a company called Central Australian Development Corporation as assistance to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs and that this hotel will eventually become part of the Hilton group of hotels? Is it further a fact that the loan is to be for a 10-year period commencing 1982-83, interest free for the first 5 years and at an undetermined rate of interest for the next 5 years?

ANSWER

I indicated to the honourable member that she should place those questions on notice so that I may give an exact reply rather than one that is not fully confirmed. I indicated that the government is looking at a proposal to support the establishment of a Hilton hotel group in Central Australia. If a package of assistance is required, obviously the government will take a decision on that at a later time.

Daylight Saving

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

There is a press report that representatives of state governments are to meet to decide on an orderly plan for daylight saving next year. Will the Northern Territory government be represented at any such talks and at what level?

ANSWER

Firstly, I avoid attending any meetings of whatever sort between states and Commonwealth that I possibly can. I can think of nothing more time or money-wasting than going all the way to Melbourne or Queenstown in New Zealand or even as far as Fiji. As far as I am concerned, I will not be there to talk about daylight saving. I will be back here doing a bit of work.

As I recall it, this Assembly debated the concept of daylight saving for the Northern Territory back in 1977 or 1978. We rejected it along non-party lines. I think it was a free vote that the Northern Territory would not participate in daylight saving. I cannot see any reason why this Assembly would want to change that decision at this stage. We are still situated in the same Territory with the same climatic conditions which causes the sun to rise at around 6.30 am and set later than it apparently does down south. Therefore, I do not really see that our participation in these talks will benefit the Northern Territory at all. I would think it would be fairly impractical for us, unless we want to become a territory of night owls, to participate in daylight saving. I think it is something that we have to leave to those poor misbegotten people who inhabit the frozen wastes of Tasmania and Victoria and the icy cold plains of New South Wales where the electricity turbines are the only things that do not work well. At least, that is the way the New South Wales government would have us believe it.

I would say in answer to the honourable member's question that we will keep our ear to the ground and see what sort of blather comes out of this particular ministerial meeting and how it might affect the Northern Territory. Certainly, it affects our commerce because, when they start earlier in Melbourne and Sydney, it means that it is harder for businessmen here. Nonetheless, I am sure that it will not do us that much damage should it be necessary to take any action. I am sure that we will hear the results.

Place Names Committee

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What consideration does the Place Names Committee give to requests from people to have roads named after particular people?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Place Names Committee receives many requests from members of the public to have roads named after particular people. The committee first checks that the names will not duplicate or nearly duplicate an existing name in the area. If necessary, and where possible, the committee also seeks consent to the use of the name from a near relative. If there are no other conflicting suggestions for a particular road, and the name is suitable, in most cases the committee will recommend to the Administrator to adopt that name.

If the request is of a general nature, the name is placed in a bank of names and used at an appropriate time.

Possible Loan for Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Development Corporation has offered to underwrite any capital losses which may be incurred by Central Australian Development Corporation in relation to its proposal to construct an international hotel at Alice Springs?

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Tuesday 16 March 1982

ANSWER

The government has not taken a decision of that nature. As I indicated just previously, the government is looking at a proposal of assistance to establish the Hilton in Central Australia. We see the establishment of new hotels in the Northern Territory as being very central to the question of tourism. We do have a policy of assistance, particularly in the field of tourism. We are not frightened to say that we would contemplate assistance of the magnitude that the member has discussed.

Rebate Scheme for Solar Equipment

Mr DOOLAN to TREASURER

As it was one of the CLP government's election pledges, does the government intend to continue the 10% rebate scheme to encourage people to install solar equipment which is due for renewal this year?

ANSWER

I am not sure that I heard all of the member's question. The Northern Territory government does have a rebate scheme relating to the installation of solar appliances. This scheme has been working and applications have been processed, not only in Darwin but in other areas in the Northern Territory. The government has no plans to discontinue the scheme.

Nhulunbuy Community Library

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given teacher response to a questionnaire on the community library in Nhulunbuy, will he instigate an inquiry which will reflect the parent, teacher and public opinion into the value of the library as both an educational and community facility?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker. The Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Community Development will be investigating not only the success or otherwise of the Nhulunbuy situation because the government has a broad policy of combining as far as possible community facilities with new schools, particularly high schools. We are looking to do that at Humpty Doo and certainly at the school complex/community centre in Palmerston. Mr Speaker, I think much has been learnt by the experience of Nhulunbuy. The information gained from that experiment will assist us in properly planning the further proposals that we have for community use of educational facilities. That is not to say that, at the same time, we will not be looking at the Nhulunbuy position in detail to see what is required to alleviate any difficulties it may be experiencing.

Aboriginal Housing on Pastoral Properties

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise what responsibility the Aboriginal Development Commission has for the provision of housing for Aboriginals on pastoral properties?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware the Aboriginal Development Commission has been given responsibility by the federal government for distribution of housing funds emanating from the federal government to Aboriginal people throughout Australia. One of the objects in its statutory charter is in fact the provision of housing for Aboriginal people whether they be on pastoral properties or anywhere.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Tuesday 16 March 1982

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government made a decision to rationalise the boundaries of East Point Reserve or regarding its future development? If not, when does he expect such a decision to be made?

ANSWER

The Department of Community Development would really only have a role in this in its relationship with the East Point Trustees, as it channels the funds to that organisation, and in discussions with the Darwin city council as to its aspirations. The actual boundaries will be a matter for the Minister for Lands and Housing.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I redirect the question to the Minister for Lands and Housing.

Has the government made a decision to rationalise the boundaries of East Point Reserve or regarding its future development? If not, when can we expect such a decision to be made?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is very much interested in the future of the East Point Reserve. As honourable members will note, the East Point Reserve Trustees have had on public display for some time now a proposed plan for East Point. The public comments will be collated and referred to the government by the trustees fairly soon. The government wishes to rationalise the boundaries of East Point. The matter has reached a stage now where the firm future of East Point can be determined. The original groups for which East Point was set aside under trustees have now been allocated sites elsewhere in the city. This has brought us to a situation whereby the boundaries can be rationalised and the future management and development of East Point can be determined. I suspect that, within probably a 3-month period, all these questions will be determined finally and announced by the government.

Jabiru Hospital

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position of the future Jabiru Hospital vis-a-vis the current health clinic?

ANSWER

I answered that last week. I refer the member to the Hansard of last week.

Lake Nash

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What efforts is the Northern Territory government making to upgrade the present inadequate facilities at Lake Nash?

ANSWER

I would like to advise the member that the government has committed a contract of \$15,000 this year to upgrade the toilet and ablution block. I am being continually pressured by the member for Stuart who is constantly on my back to upgrade facilities in that area. The works will include the provision

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Tuesday 16 March 1982

for 2 urinals, 3 stainless steel hand basins, 6 full-flushing systems, 1 double bowl laundry tub, 8 shower roses - 4 male and 4 female - 2 taps at each hand tub and 4 taps fitted on the walls of each corner of the ablution block. The work was expected to take about 8 weeks and should be completed later on this month.

Royal Flying Doctor Service Hangar at Alice Springs

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Who was the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at the Alice Springs Airport? Was this decision consistent with the Tender Board's recommendation and what were the grounds on which this decision was based?

ANSWER

The transaction relating to the letting of the aero-medical hangar in Alice Springs is one that took place about 9 to 12 months ago. I would need to reflect back on the files to get the member the information he wants. I am happy to do that. Could I suggest to the member that, if he expects an answer to questions like that on the day, an hour's notice would go a long way in enabling a minister to provide the information.

Redco Proposal for Ludmilla Creek Area

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Could he advise what status, at government level, the proposal by Redco for a development around Ludmilla Creek has?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the proposal referred to by the honourable member is one that is being promoted and developed privately by the company concerned. As I understand it, studies by the company have not yet reached the stage of submission to the Northern Territory Planning Authority which would be a requirement for rezoning of the area. Should it receive approval at that stage, I imagine there would be a subsequent stage of development approval, including environmental impact statements. To date, the government has neither undertaken to support or not to support this particular project. It is entirely in the hands of private proponents. At this stage, it is not considered to be appropriate for government necessarily to comment on it. It is a very complex proposal dealing with development and environmental matters.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I ask this question on behalf of both the honourable member for Elsey and myself. Is the minister aware that some larger cattle stations are going to discontinue their involvement in the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program because of the lack of economic markets at present?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not been advised formally by any station owners or land-holders that they are not proposing to continue with the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program during 1982. I fear, however, that the season itself, although quite good, may not bring the prices that people need to maintain their mustering programs although it is a bit early to say. I will be very interested to see what the early prices of cattle will be.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Tuesday 16 March 1982

In Vitro Fertilisation Research Assistance

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Northern Territory government, through the Department of Health, intend to provide any funds for further research into in vitro fertilisation as Northern Territory couples are affected by it?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is another question that I am not able to answer at this moment. I ask the honourable member to place it on notice.

Legislation for Sale of Housing Commission Homes in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the government introduce legislation, as foreshadowed by the former Minister for Lands and Housing, which would enable Housing Commission tenants in Nhulunbuy to purchase the houses which they occupy?

ANSWER

If the member for Nhulunbuy cared to read Hansard or listen to second-reading speeches, he would be aware that the Tenancy Bill currently before the Assembly is designed to alleviate the problem which has faced the company at Gove in the past with a view to enabling land tenure matters to be settled in order that Housing Commission tenants may be given the opportunity to purchase their homes.

Mustering Subsidies for Aboriginal Properties

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise whether his department has applied for financial assistance for mustering subsidies for tuberculosis control on pastoral properties owned by Aboriginals?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think my statement the other day indicated that the greatest area of concern for government was in the area of feral animal control and the large areas of land that are not under pastoral holdings. All pastoral holdings will be treated on an equal basis as far as this program is concerned. In respect of mustering subsidies, we looked very closely at what subsidies could be applied to mustering. They amounted to much more than could be obtained from either state or Commonwealth governments, and I do not believe that a mustering subsidy is a viable option in any respect.

Library Service for Jabiru

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I understand that some preparations were made for the establishment of a public library service at Jabiru. Is it true that those plans have been deferred or shelved?

ANSWER

I do not have the information the honourable member seeks but certainly I will write to her with that information in due course.

NTEC Power at Newcastle Waters Station

ANSWER TO QUESTION:

Mr PERRON (Treasurer) (by leave): Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Sanderson asked if NTEC was proposing to install generator sets at Newcastle Waters Station, and the justification for such a decision if it had been taken.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Tuesday 16 March 1982

NTEC does not intend to install generator sets at Newcastle Waters Station. However, the commission has installed 2 generators in the township of Newcastle Waters to supply domestic, commercial and streetlighting needs. These sets were commissioned on 10 April 1981. Newcastle Waters Station is one of the consumers being supplied from the NTEC installation. The installation of a reliable power supply for Newcastle Waters arose from a petition of the townspeople to the minister in October 1980. NTEC was able to provide 2 surplus sets previously used in Larrimah at a cost of approximately one third of the alternative of erecting a feeder line to Newcastle Waters from Elliott.

Amendment to Tenancy Act

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to his previous answer to the question from the member for Nhulunbuy. Is he aware of the amendment to the Tenancy Act which was introduced into this Assembly in the last sittings, to say nothing about the matter of land tenure at Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I think the members opposite have oversimplified the form of legislation required to fix up the land tenure problems at Nhulunbuy. Nhulunbuy is in a complicated situation because the land is referred to in various pieces of legislation, including the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act and various agreements between the Commonwealth government and the company out there relating to the land tenure, security for the mine and the town, and so on. The problems that are associated with the company giving the necessary securities and approvals to allow for other persons to take up subleases in the area would involve more than a simple act altering the land tenure in the area. They would also involve the law relating to tenancies. That is what is proposed in the bill.

Nightcliff Primary School

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that a decision has apparently been made not to proceed with stage 3 of Nightcliff Primary School meaning the school will have to continue using a demountable? Will he undertake to make a statement in the House later this sittings if at all possible?

ANSWER

I certainly could not undertake to make a statement later in these sittings because I imagine there is not a great deal of them left. Mr Speaker, there are many demountables in schools in the Northern Territory and I certainly would not like to place the government in a position of saying that we will remove all demountables in Nightcliff and not be able to say that in respect of all the other schools around the Northern Territory. Faced with that problem, I will investigate the matter.

Quite often demountables are put in because of a climb in the graph of children of the particular age who go to either a primary school or high school. It is quite often not wise to build permanent facilities just to take up a short-term population variation. In any event, I will investigate the matter and, if there is anything particular that the member ought to know, I will write to her in due course.

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

9 - 16 March 1982

Aboriginal -

Community Work Program *626
health workers *622
housing on pastoral properties 730
leases, brucellosis and tuberculosis 664
Liaison Unit 635
outstations, teacher aides 704
properties, mustering subsidies 732
Sacred Sites Protection Authority 719
teaching assistants *620
traditional owners, consultation with 713

Aborigines -

employment 636
pre-apprenticeship courses 668

ADMA, crop purchase scheme 662

Agriculture, government expenditure 641

Alice Springs -

Hospital, outpatient service 666
roads 723

Women's Community Centre 630

Anti-depressant medication *616

Apatula community 668

Artificial insemination 691

Australian Public Servants, home purchase 714

Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association Convention 639

Bali cattle, research 662

Beef -

contract production 642
exports to South-east Asia 631
tenderising techniques *637

Bellenger, Geoffrey Peter *622

Beswick Station, water supply 671

Bilingual education programs *621, 711

Blood tests for drugs 718

Brinkin traffic 713

Brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign *622, 670, 717, 731

Buffalo domestication 659, 662

Buffalo Industry Conference 663

Bynoe Harbour road 714

Caravan parks survey 672

Casuarina Hospital -

golden staph 709, 724
separate facilities *619
staff reductions *619
waiting time 637

Causeways, closure in central Australia 700

Chest x-rays *616, 673

Chief Minister -

circular to 'Fellow Territorians' *629
house in Brunei 688

Child Health Unit, Alice Springs 706

Child Protection Consultative Committee *621

Circular on health matters in schools 711

Collia Tin Mine *617

Commercial establishments, supply of services to 704

Commissioner of Police 687

Commonwealth funds to NT, interest 680

Commonwealth health grants *617

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
9 - 16 March 1982

Community health centres -
 allocations *617
 medical practitioners 630
Community welfare, expenditure 652
Compulsory destocking 701
Conservation Commission, trees 698
Corporation of the City of Darwin, houses *628
Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Bill *625, 696
Dangerous Goods Act 722
Darwin Airport -
 access roads to new terminal 675
 entrance to new terminal 705
Darwin Central Community Health Centre *616
Darwin Hospital, pathology laboratory *614
Darwin powerhouse, site 642
Daylight saving 727
Dental Act 705
Department of Community Development, counselling *615
Department of Education, computers *628
Department of Health -
 central office 648
 debt collectors *625, 650
 grants-in-aid *618
 internal reviews *618
 meeting of executives in Alice Springs 702, 709
Department of Mines and Energy, Tennant Creek office 705
Department of Primary Production, sale of cattle 726
Detoxification centres *615
Disabled persons, aid 618
Disadvantaged cards *619
Doctor/patient ratios *620
Doctors, use of public facilities 715
Domestic violence *621, 636
Donkey meat 662
Douglas-Daly and Upper Adelaide River farms *621
Drug education programs *617
East Point Reserve 730
East West Airlines 629
Education Act, regulations 694
Electricity charges for caravan dwellers 720
Elizabeth River Dairy, government cattle 640
Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases 629
Elsey electorate, fire fighting equipment *623
Emergency accommodation for females *615
Emergency services heliport, Alice Springs 693
Essential Services Program, water supply 703
Eva Valley and St Vidgeon Stations *614, 677
External students, assistance 707
Eye specialist for Alice Springs 717
Fifteen-mile camp, special purposes lease 632
Firearms, disposition of unserviceable 217
Fish and Fisheries Act, complaints 642
Fisheries Division program 639
Flagpoles for schools 672
Fog Bay 720
foreshore protection 684
Fruit and vegetable growers, assistance 718
Ghan service 713

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

9 - 16 March 1982

Giles House 665
 Government -
 departments, liaison *623
 houses, sale 681
 land purchases on new estates 694
 vehicles 682, 720
 Grants-in-aid *617, *627, 631, 632, 676
 Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust Account *624
 Gunn Point Prison Farm 675, 676
 Health charges 650
 Health funding *620
 Health insurance -
 claims 637
 Territorians covered by 683
 Health services, rationalisation 649
 Hilton Hotel for Alice Springs, possible loan 726, 727, 728
 Hospital patients, security for belongings *614
 Hospitals -
 consultants' fees 649
 outpatient services 651
 patients transferred interstate 650
 payments by instalments *625
 staffing levels *620, *625
 variation in bed costs *619
 Hostels, tenders for leases 669
 Housing Commission -
 assistance to pensioners 643
 building program for Tennant Creek 673
 caretakers for flats 694
 out-of-turn allocations 638, 648
 rental rebates 647
 sale of units and townhouses 668
 ILO conventions *623, *624
 Industrial crops, research 643
 Industries Training Commission 630, 676
 Interpreter service for Aborigines *614
 In vitro fertilisation research 732
 Jabiru -
 Hospital 685, 723, 730
 library service 732
 medical practitioners 721
 Juvenile crime *624
 Kailis fishing company, trucking route 634
 Katherine -
 Aboriginal camping area *615
 building inspector 681
 electricity supply *613, *622
 grain receival depot 722
 Health Centre 632
 Hospital 638, 700
 hospital costs *626
 Police District 679
 town boundaries *623
 Kintore Ranges, community 667
 Koolpinyah pastoral lease *628, 692
 Lake Nash 634, 730
 Land rights inquiry 664
 Leucaena, trials at Mataranka 644

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
9 - 16 March 1982

Library Service, book purchases 659
Licensing -
 carpenters and bricklayers 715
 mortgage and insurance brokers 711
Liquor -
 campaign *616
 legislation 696, 697
Litter campaign *621
Local government authorities, model bylaws 721
Ludmilla Creek, Redco proposal 731
MacDonnell Range National Park 671
Marqua Station, alleged employment of underage children 722
Mataranka -
 electricity 677
 television service 681
Mental Health Act, review 716
Mentally retarded children in primary schools 638
Millner Primary School -
 breaking and entering 717
 vacant land near 701
Minister for Mines and Energy, travel 664
Ministerial statement on health 633
Molyhill Mine *621
Mortality statistics 666
Motor vehicle accidents *626
Mudginberri Station, buffalo exports 698
Mung beans, ADMA markets *627, 708
Napperby Station 673
Natural gas 719
Newcastle Waters Station, electricity 698, 732
Nhulunbuy -
 boat ramp 705
 Community Library 729
 local government 721
 Primary School 713
 Sale of Housing Commission homes 732
 Year 7 students 697
Nightcliff -
 Dental Clinic 687
 Primary School 733
Northern Meat Exporters, interest rate on loan *613
Northern Territory Public Service -
 employees 644
 superannuation fund *622
NTDC -
 assistance to Aboriginal organisations 672
 loans *615, 699, 704
NTEC -
 employees, remuneration and benefits *627
 motor vehicles *627
 transferees 663
Nursing and administration of medicine report *619
Nursing, home care *619
Occupational health hazards 637
Occupational health service 651
Oral History Program 674
Outpatients -
 attendance figures at NT hospitals *616
 treatment of non-urgent cases *616

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

9 - 16 March 1982

P.A. Australia 669
 Palmerston, effect on rural area 702
 Palm leaf beetle 703
 Panorama Guth 664
 Parap Community Health Clinic 686
 Pastoral leases 633
 Pensioners -
 air fare scheme 708
 free health care 636
 Petrol sniffing 648, 723
 Pilot licence holders in public service 677
 Pine Creek Hall *626
 Place Names Committee 728
 Plant Variety Rights Bill 693
 Plenty Highway, reconstruction 694
 Point Stuart abattoir 641
 Poisons Act, amendments 727
 Poker machines 670, 704
 Police Regional Centre, relocation 710
 Powell Creek telegraph station 642
 Prawning industry *615, 662, 663
 Private hospital for Darwin 651, 712
 Progress associations, tender approvals 665
 Psychiatric patients, transfer to SA *620
 Psychiatric services 619, *620, *625
 Public housing in NT, applications *618
 Public servants -
 male *626
 number employed in NT *625
 Queensland Mines, yellowcake 661
 RAAF, noise level demonstration 699
 Rabbit Flat, stranded people 716
 Railway from Darwin wharf to Berrimah 675
 Rape in southern region of NT *613
 Rapid Creek, bridge at mouth 702
 Rapid Creek Water Gardens *622
 Regulatory and Advisory Council, meetings 659
 Road signs in rural area 711
 Royal Flying Doctor Service, hangar at Alice Springs 731
 Rural areas, compensation for assistance to police 707
 Rural Roads Conference 711
 Sadadeen subdivision, purchase of lots by Commonwealth 669
 Sales tax 684
 Sales Tax Rebate Program 712
 Salvinia, control of 705
 Sanderson Clinic, flagpole 697
 Satellite programs 697
 Sarawak, primary industry assistance 696
 School dental therapists 651
 School leavers, apprenticeships *625
 School-to-work transition program 658
 Sexual assault cases *614
 Sexual harassment 634
 Solar equipment, rebate scheme 729
 Stuart Highway Alice Springs, realignment 726
 Student assistance *613
 TAA, special Gove flight 692
 Tenancy Act, amendments 733
 Tennant Creek, Housing Commission dwellings 668

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
9 - 16 March 1982

Ti Tree -
 inquest 688
 school 667
Top Springs, alleged rape 678
Tourism and Heritage Conference 666
Trachoma, treatment in Aboriginal communities 636
Tradesmen for remote areas *613
Traffic signs 674
Tuberculosis, incidence in 1979-80 *614
United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against
 Women *624, 635, 695
Virginia and Bees Creek Roads 727
Wells Building 718
White Paper on education 718
Yipirinya School *620, 692
Yulara Tourist Village 705, 706