

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources and Minister responsible for agencies and Government authorities under the Administrative Arrangements Order as at 31 March 2017

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

ELECTION COMMITMENTS

1. Please provide details of all Labor election commitments and policy announcements made to Territorians in the campaign leading up to the 2016 NT General Election.
2. Please also provide the costing as applied to each election commitment.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

3. Please provide details on all staff movements as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Order on 12 September 2016, including:
 - a) Appointments
 - b) Transfers
 - c) Resignations
 - d) Terminations
 - e) Redundancies
4. Please advise the cost of the staff changes, broken down by standard classification.
5. How much was spent on signage, including the design of such signage, required due to the machinery of Government changes since 12 September 2016?
6. How much was spent on stationery, including the design of such stationery, required due to the machinery of Government changes since 12 September 2016?

7. How much was spent on uniforms required due to the machinery of Government changes since 12 September 2016?
8. How much was spent on logos, trademarks and branding, including the development, design and registration of logos, trademarks and branding, required due to the machinery of Government changes since 12 September 2016?
9. How much was spent on published materials, printed or digital, required due to the machinery of Government changes since 12 September 2016?
10. How much was spent on office fit-outs and/or refurbishments commissioned following the machinery of Government changes since 12 September 2016?

BUDGET

11. What efficiency dividend has each Department and Agency been asked to achieve in framing the 2017/18 Budget? When was this direction given and what specific instructions were provided to achieve this result?
12. What instructions have been given to Departments and Agencies to address the reduction in GST payments to the Northern Territory?

STAFFING

13. Please provide details for the following staffing questions as at 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017:
 - a) How many staff were employed in the following categories:
 - i. Full time equivalent
 - ii. Permanent part time contract
 - iii. Contract
 - b) Please advise the number of staff identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in terms of FTE and as a percentage of the Agency total employment (all classifications).
 - c) Please advise the number of frontline staff as FTE and as a percentage of the Agency total employment (all classifications).
14. What is the variance in FTE from 30 June 2016 to 31 March 2017?

15. Please advise, in each category:
- a) The total number of staff on contracts (by executive and temporary employment contracts) as at 30 June 2016 and as at 31 March 2017
 - b) By position, the levels at which staff are employed on executive or temporary employment contracts as at 30 June 2016 and as at 31 March 2017
 - c) By position, when each current contract is due to be renewed
16. For the full financial year ending 30 June 2016 and for the period 1 September through 31 March 2017, how many staff:
- a) Resigned
 - b) Were demoted as a result of job evaluation or re-evaluation
 - c) Were made redundant
 - d) Were terminated
17. How many staff were unattached or categorized as redeployees for the full financial year ending 30 June 2016 and for the period beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
18. How many staff were categorized as supernumerary for the full financial year ending 30 June 2016 and for the period beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
19. How many staff have been engaged through employment agency arrangements, for what purpose, for what duration and at what cost for the full financial year ending 30 June 2016 and for the period beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
20. How many locums have been employed, for what purpose, what duration and at what cost for the full financial year ending 30 June 2016 and for the period beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
21. How many positions had Special Measures applied when advertised during the period beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
22. How many positions that had Special Measures applied, as referred to in question 21 above, had to be re-advertised due to the initial process not securing suitable candidates?

23. Please advise the number of staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as at 1 September 2016 and the increase in staff who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander since 1 September 2016.

24. How many grievances have arisen as a direct result of the Special Measures program since 1 September 2016. Of these, how many remain unresolved?

OUTSOURCING

25. For the period beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017, detail any decision(s) to outsource, contract out or privatise functions that have traditionally been carried out by the Agency. Is consideration being given to outsource, contract-out or privatise in financial year 2017/18? If so, provide details.

LEGAL EXPENSES

26. What has been the expenditure on legal advice or related expenses for the financial year 2016/17? Provide details on:

- a) the matter(s) (designate which ones are finalised and which ones are ongoing)
- b) The amount paid by matter
- c) The amount paid to each outside legal firm or barrister engaged

PROCUREMENT / CONSULTANCIES

27. For the period beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017, please detail expenditure on each report and consultancy (excluding annual reports) that has been obtained from outside the NTPS. For each report/consultancy detail:

- a) Purpose
- b) Cost
- c) Person or entity engaged
- d) Whether the person or entity has their principal place of business in the Northern Territory or elsewhere (if elsewhere, please provide the address of the principal place of business of the person or entity)
- e) Whether a report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly as a result of the report or consultancy
- f) Outcomes or key performance indicators for the report or consultancy

- g) Whether tenders or expressions of interest were invited prior to work on the report or consultancy being undertaken
28. Please detail expenditure paid, or expected to be paid, to Hawker Britton and/or associated entities for the financial year 2016/17, up to and including 31 March 2017. Outline the tasks performed.
29. How many contracts and tenders have been awarded to business entities with their principal place of business in the Northern Territory so far, and what works have been undertaken?
30. How many contracts have been awarded to business entities with a principal place of business outside the Northern Territory for the financial year 2016/2017, up to and including 31 March 2017? Detail the work being undertaken by each business entity and the selection criteria for the successful business entity on the applicable contract or tender.
31. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many public quotations were undertaken during the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
32. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many contracts or tenders were awarded without undertaking a public quotation process during the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
33. For each instance identified above in question 32, where a public quotation process was not undertaken, including for Certificates of Exemption:
- a) What is the description of the goods and services contracted?
 - b) What is the value of the goods and services contracted?
 - c) What was the reason for not using the public quotation process or for requiring a Certificate of Exemption?
 - d) Who recommended the course of action in c) above?
 - e) Who approved the course of action in c) above?
34. Please advise the total number of NTG Corporate Credit Cards within the Agency, including the position titles and levels of the staff holding the corporate credit cards for the purchase of goods and/or services as at 31 March 2017.

FOCUS GROUPS / POLLING / SURVEYS

35. Please detail expenditure during the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017 on opinion polls and focus groups, including costs and entities that conducted the work.
36. Please provide copies of the surveys identified in question 35 above and detail all surveys undertaken, their form, the cost and what inducements were provided to incentivise participation during the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

37. Please detail expenditure on advertising and communications during the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017.
- For each advertisement for which an expense was incurred:
- a) What was the purpose / description of the advertisement?
 - b) Who was the advertisement placed with, i.e. media outlet, newspaper, television station or similar?
 - c) What was the total production cost, including, but not limited to, design, commissions, placement costs?
 - d) Were tenders or expressions of interest called? If not, why not?

TRAVEL

Note: A separate question is being sent to the Department of the Chief Minister.

38. Please provide the total expenditure and itemised details of travel, including, but not limited to travel-related costs such as accommodation, travel allowance, entertainment, car rental, meals and incidentals, in each Agency and authority for the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017 broken down to:
- a) International travel
 - b) Interstate travel
 - c) Intrastate travel
39. In the case of international travel identified in response to question 38 above, please provide the purpose, itinerary, persons and costs involved in each trip.

40. Please provide itemised details and itemisation of costs of all travel undertaken by the Minister that was paid for by the Agency or authority, including travel on charters during the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017.

HOSPITALITY / FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

Note: A separate question is being sent to the Department of the Chief Minister.

41. Please provide full details of all public service hospitality provided since 1 September 2016.
- In relation to each occasion on which official hospitality was undertaken:
- a) What was the purpose of the hospitality?
 - b) How many guests attended?
 - c) How many Ministers attended?
 - d) How many Ministerial staff attended?
 - e) How many MLAs attended?
 - f) How many Public Sector employees attended?
 - g) What was the total cost incurred?

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

42. Please detail expenditure on grants and donations paid by your Agency (including the recipient of each grant) during the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017.
43. Please detail the funds utilised to distribute awards and sponsorships in the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017. Indicate which awards and scholarships were managed by Regional Offices. What is anticipated for the 2017/18 financial year?
44. Please detail the amounts paid on grants to non-Government organisations for the the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017, including to which organisation and the services to be provided?

MEDIA MONITORING SERVICES

45. Provide expenditure details on media monitoring services for the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017 (including entities engaged and who utilises the service).

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

46. What are the details, by project, of re-voted capital works in all Department and Government Authorities since 1 September 2016?
47. Please provide details of all projects that have been cancelled or postponed under the Government's infrastructure re-prioritisation plan.
48. Please provide details of newly committed projects since 1 September 2016.
49. Please provide details of contracts awarded to interstate firms, for what purpose, the cost and why a Territory firm was not chosen.

GOVERNMENT LEASED BUILDINGS

50. What is the total annual power bill of each Government building owned/leased/used by each Department for the financial year 2015/16 and as at 31 March 2017?
51. What is the total annual leased space of each Government building used by each Agency/authority and at what cost for the period of time beginning 1 September 2016 and ending 31 March 2017?
52. How much Government owned or leased premises or office space is currently under-utilised (at less than 100 per cent occupied) or vacant?

FEES AND CHARGES

53. Please detail the statutory or legislative fees and charges levied by your Agency/authority, the revenue raised in the 2016/17 financial year and whether any of these fees and charges was increased following the passage of the 2016/17 financial year budget.

INTERNAL AUDITS

54. How many internal audits and financial investigations were conducted in the 2016/17 financial year?
55. What were the terms of reference or focus for each investigation?
56. Please provide detail of any fraud, anomalies, breaches of financial legislation or Northern Territory Government policy and procedures exposed by the audits and financial investigations.

BOARDS / ADVISORY BODIES

57. Please detail all boards and advisory bodies in your Agency in 2016/17, also providing the following information:
- a) The Terms of Reference
 - b) The current members and when they were appointed
 - c) The total remuneration paid to each Board member during the 2016/17 financial year
 - d) The itemised total cost incurred by the Board during the 2016/17 financial year
 - e) The number of times the Board met during the 2016/17 financial year

REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

58. Details of all reviews and inquiries completed or commenced during the 2016/17 financial year, also providing the following information:
- a) The Terms of Reference
 - b) The criteria for selection of all panel members
 - c) The composition, qualifications and state or territory of residence of the persons undertaking the review/inquiry
 - d) The cost of the review/inquiry
 - e) How the information was/is accumulated to contribute to the review/inquiry
 - f) If completed, when, the outcome and whether the report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly
 - g) If not completed when this is expected

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

59. Please provide the number, nature and cost of reportable safety issues for 2016/17.

REGIONAL OFFICES

60. Please detail expenditure on staff located in regional offices across the Territory. Include the number of staff, their functions and outcomes achieved in the 2016/17 financial year. What are the locations for which they are responsible?

Answer: “Given the NT Budget has only just been handed down in the Legislative Assembly, it has not been possible to respond to these Budget-related questions at this point in time. However, the early notice of these questions in the lead up to the June 2017 Estimates hearings is acknowledged and appreciated.

Following the introduction of the Budget legislation on 2 May 2017, it is now possible to prepare responses to these Written Questions. It is intended to provide a response by 9 June 2017, well in advance of the June 2017 Estimates hearings.”