

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.7

Question No. 104

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

Indigenous night patrols in NT:

- a) The Budget provides for \$3.9m in 2007-08 for operational equipment and a further \$17.7m in 2008-09 to fund night patrol services. Provide a breakdown of how the resources allocated to night patrols are to be distributed to communities in the Northern Territory specifying which organisations will receive the funding?
- b) Is there a policy of preferentially allocating funds for these services to local or town councils?
- c) If so, what is the rationale for this approach?
- d) Outline the community consultation process used to determine appropriate delivery of services?
- e) Where funds have allocated to new service providers on what basis were these decisions made?
- f) What evidence of capacity to deliver these services is required?
- g) What requirements are placed on the service providers?
- h) What happens when existing services are receiving funding from other sources in addition to AG funding? Is this taken into account when a decision is made to change providers?
- i) What interactions have you had with the NT Government and other Commonwealth government agencies about ongoing support for jointly funded programs?
- j) Are there provisions in place to support continuity of employment for experienced night patrol workers where service delivery is transferred to another provider?
- k) What monitoring and evaluation frameworks and procedures are in place for assessing the performance and outcomes of these services?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) Funding is allocated to the eight Northern Territory shire councils and to Ironbark (NT) Employment and Training Inc in the Top End Region (as a shire council was not established in that region) to deliver night patrol services in the 73 prescribed communities under the

Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER). Funding is also provided to Kalano Community Association Incorporated, Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation and Tangentyere Council Inc to deliver services in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs respectively (which are not prescribed communities under the NTER).

The following table sets out the service providers, the communities they cover and funding allocations for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

		2007-08	2008-09
Service Provider	Community	Total	Total
Central Desert Shire Council	NTER - Nturiya, Wilora, Willowra, Engawala, Atitjere, Nyirripi, Yuelamu, Laramba, Pmara Jutunta, Lajamanu, Yuendumu	\$1,754,108	\$2,673,500
MacDonnell Shire Council	NTER - Mt Liebig, Amoonguna, Hermannsburg, Santa Teresa, Finke - Apatula, Imanpa, Mutitjulu, Kintore, Papunya, Haasts Bluff - Ikjuntji, Areyonga, Wallace Rockhole, Titjikala, Docker River. Non-NTER - Tjuwanpa Outstation	\$2,202,120	\$3,790,700
Tangentyere Council Inc	Alice Springs Town Camps	\$391,000	\$408,100
Tangentyere Council Inc (youth patrol)	Alice Springs Town Camps	\$208,840	\$267,080
Tiwi Islands Shire Council	NTER - Nguiu, Milikapati, Pirlangimpi	\$588,500	\$663,200
West Arnhem Shire Council	NTER - Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), Maningrida, Minjilang (Croker Island), Warruwi, (Goulburn Island)	\$281,570	\$809,200
Ironbark (NT) Employment and Training	NTER - Belyuen, Acacia Larrakia/Batchelor	\$619,770	\$475,600
Roper Gulf Shire Council	NTER - Numbulwar, Robinson River, Minyerri (Hodgson Downs), Weemol, Bulman, Rittarangu, Ngukurr, Jilkmingga (Duck Creek), Beswick, Manyallaluk, Barunga	\$1,831,720	\$2,236,200
Victoria River - Daly Shire Council	NTER - Nauiyu (Daly River), Pigeon Hole, Daguragu, Kybrook Farm, Peppimenarti, Wadeye, Bulla, Amanbidji (Kildurk), Yarralin, Kalkarindji.	\$978,860	\$2,276,600
Kalano Community Association Inc	NTER - Binjari. Non-NTER - Katherine Town Camps	\$351,220	\$615,320
East Arnhem Shire Council	Galiwinku (Elcho Island), Umbakumba, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Gunyangara (Ski Beach), Yirrkala, Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella), Milyakburra (Bickerton Island), Angurugu.	\$1,053,930	\$1,732,200

Barkly Shire Council	NTER - Canteen Creek, Alpururulam, Ali Churung, Wutunugurra (Epenarra), Imangara (Murray Downs), Tara, Ampilatwatja. Non-NTER - Urupuntja/Utopia, Elliott	\$847,590	\$1,864,899
Julalikari Council AC	Tennant Creek Town Camps	\$354,777	\$405,750
TOTALS		\$11,464,005	\$18,218,349

Note: 2007-08 funding to the shire councils was not for a full 12 months because Program Funding Agreements were not signed until December 2007 and March 2008.

- b) No. The decision on whether to fund a particular service provider is based on an assessment of which organisation is best placed to deliver the required level of services into relevant communities.
- c) The new Northern Territory shire councils have been assessed as having the necessary capacity to deliver effective night patrol services. They have sufficient administrative expertise and sound governance as part of the Northern Territory local government structure and are able to provide night patrol services for a range of communities.
- d) Service providers must undertake community consultations in accordance with the Attorney-General's Department Night Patrol Services in the Northern Territory Operational Framework (attached, but also available on the AGD website). The Framework provides that night patrol regional managers should consult with the community and the relevant Government Business Manager to gain the confidence and support of the community in implementing a night patrol service. Once a positive relationship has been developed with the community, the night patrol regional manager should develop a proposal for implementing the night patrol service and present back to the community for endorsement.
- e) See the answer to b).
- f) See the answer to c).
- g) Service providers are required to meet financial and performance reporting as set out in schedules attached to the Program Funding Agreement including annual Operational Plans. The Operational Framework outlines reporting requirements as well as service delivery standards and expectations.
- h) The decision as to which service provider was to be funded to deliver night patrol services was based on an assessment of the capacity to best deliver services.

- i) In assessing the appropriate approach to take in the Northern Territory, the Department consulted with the Northern Territory Government and other Australian Government agencies. The decision to allocate funding to the Northern Territory shire councils to provide night patrol services was supported.
- j) Yes. All current night patrol jobs will be transferred to the new service providers. These jobs have been converted to real jobs as salaried positions with the benefits of annual and sick leave, superannuation and other standard entitlements. Under the new arrangements all night patrol staff receive training including first aid and dispute mediation and it is expected that this training will enable them to move into other, related employment or to other positions within the night patrol structure.
- k) Program Funding Agreements contain quarterly performance and six monthly financial reporting. An acquittal of the activity, performance and financial, is also completed at the end of the financial year. A departmental review of the implementation phase will be concluded in late 2008.