

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

Sub Program 1.1.2

Question No. 118

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:

Provide relevant particulars regarding the recommendation and outcomes of the Barkly Shire Night Patrol Review. Provide the terms of reference for the Tangentyere strategic planning review, the earlier report and the outcomes of the workshop. Can a copy of the report of the implementation of town camp reviews be provided to the Committee, if not, can an executive summary of the report be provided?

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

Barkly Shire Council Night Patrol Review

The Department contracted by select tender Senatore Brennan Rashid (SBR) to undertake a review of the night patrol service operated by the Barkly Shire Council in March 2009. Terms of reference are below.

Terms of reference

The review will be for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. The outcome of the Project shall be informed advice in determining whether the Organisation:

- (i) has provided a certain level of quality night patrol services, and
- (ii) has properly expended and accounted for the use of Commonwealth funds including assets.

1. Quality Night Patrol Services

The review will ascertain from performance reports and data whether Barkly Shire Council is providing quality night patrol services to the identified communities within the region and is meeting the objectives of the Prevention, Diversion, Restorative Justice and Rehabilitation Program. Additionally, assessment of how the Department could further support the implementation of the night patrol services given the operating environment and new issues impacting on service delivery.

2. Financial

The review will provide informed advice and documentation regarding the appropriate use of Commonwealth funds including assets as well as assess whether alternative financial administrative strategies can be identified until the CouncilBiz system is fully operational.

Outcome

The review identified a number of areas which needed to be addressed by Barkly Shire Council in order to provide a consistent, high quality night patrol service. The areas identified included management, service obligations, human resources, data collection and financial management.

The Department proposes to work collaboratively with Barkly Shire Council to address the issues identified. This will include engaging with stakeholders to increase community cohesion,

developing strategies to support staff recruitment and retention, the development of a data base and facilitate increased interaction through the Shire Financial Working Group to address financial reporting issues.

Tangentyere Strategic Planning Workshop

SBR by select tender undertook a review of night patrol services operated by Tangentyere Council in November 2008. Terms of reference are below.

Terms of Reference

The review will be for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. The outcome of the Project shall be informed advice in determining whether the Organisation:

- (iii) has provided a certain level of quality night patrol services including the needs of the community for additional services and the capacity of Tangentyere Council to support a second night patrol vehicle
- (iv) has properly expended and accounted for the use of Commonwealth funds including assets.

1. Quality Night Patrol Services

The review will ascertain from performance reports and data whether Tangentyere Council is providing quality night patrol services to the residents of Alice Springs town camps including the needs of the community for additional services and the capacity of Tangentyere Council to support a second night patrol vehicle and is meeting the objectives of the Prevention, Diversion, Restorative Justice and Rehabilitation Program.

2. Financial

The audit will provide informed advice and documentation regarding the appropriate use of Commonwealth funds including assets.

Outcome

The review identified seven areas which Tangentyere Council must address in order to provide a consistent, high quality night patrol service. The areas included: management, human resource management, role clarity, communication, data, service model rethink and promotion and financial issues including asset utilisation. The key recommendation from the review was to conduct a strategic planning workshop to focus on the seven areas.

Workshop

The workshop was conducted with Tangentyere Council in February 2009. The workshop addressed specific operational issues identified in the SBR review, identified current service delivery risks and provided Tangentyere Council with the tools to develop an operational plan for service delivery. The plan will assist Tangentyere to meet the requirements of the Program Funding Agreement.

Implementation of town camp reviews – Kalano and Julalikari

The implementation of town camp reviews involved a workshop with each service provider to consider the recommendations from a review of each of these services conducted in February 2009. The Department engaged Deloitte by select tender to undertake a review of the night patrol service

operated by Kalano Community Association Incorporated and Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation.

The workshops have been conducted by the end of June 2009. Each workshop will discuss the recommendations of the review, options for implementing the recommendations and the development of an operational plan for service delivery. Specific details of the recommendation of the reviews of the individual services are below.

Kalano Community Association Incorporation

Terms of reference

The review will be for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. The outcome of the Project shall be informed advice in determining whether the Organisation:

- (v) has provided a certain level of quality night patrol services including the needs of the community for night patrol services and has met reasonable operating standards
- (vi) is compliant with the *2008-09 General terms and conditions for Funding Agreements relating to Indigenous Programs*, and
- (vii) has properly expended and accounted for the use of Commonwealth funds including assets.

1. Quality Night Patrol Services

The review will ascertain from performance reports and data whether Kalano Community Association has provided quality night patrol services to the residents of Katherine town camps, is meeting the objectives of the Prevention, Diversion, Restorative Justice and Rehabilitation Program and ascertain whether the administration of night patrol services comply with the Quality Assurance Framework and associated Service Standards.

2. Reporting Requirements

The review will address the following items regarding reporting requirements:

- (a) The Organisations' compliance with financial reporting requirements as set out in the terms and conditions.
- (b) The reliability of financial reporting provided to AGD by the Organisation.

3. Financial

The review will provide informed advice and documentation regarding the appropriate use of Commonwealth funds including assets.

Outcome

The Kalano review provided nine recommendations under seven review areas which need to be addressed in order to provide a consistent, high quality night patrol service. These areas included community expectations, communications with Police, conflicts of interest, employee contracts, management of assets and leased assets

Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation

Terms of Reference

The review will be for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. The outcome of the Project shall be informed advice in determining whether the Organisation:

- (i) has provided a certain level of quality night patrol services including the needs of the community for night patrol services and has met reasonable operating standards
- (ii) is compliant with the *2008-09 General terms and conditions for Funding Agreements relating to Indigenous Programs*, and
- (iii) has properly expended and accounted for the use of Commonwealth funds including assets.

1. Quality Night Patrol Services

The review will ascertain from performance reports and data whether Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation has provided quality night patrol services to the residents of Tennant Creek town camps, is meeting the objectives of the Prevention, Diversion, Restorative Justice and Rehabilitation Program and ascertain whether the administration of night patrol services comply with the Quality Assurance Framework and associated Service Standards.

2. Reporting Requirements

The review will address the following items regarding reporting requirements:

- (a) The Organisations' compliance with financial reporting requirements as set out in the terms and conditions.
- (b) The reliability of financial reporting provided to AGD by the Organisation.

3. Financial

The review will provide informed advice and documentation regarding the appropriate use of Commonwealth funds including assets.

Outcome

The Julalikari review provided twelve recommendations under nine review areas which need to be addressed in order to provide a consistent, high quality night patrol service. These areas included community expectations, service level agreements, communications with Police, conflicts of interest, collection of statistics, recording of expenses, employee contracts, operation of bank account and assets.

The Department will continue to work closely with Kalano and Julalikari to ensure the issues identified are addressed.

Copies of the executive summaries are attached.

Copies of the full report have not been made public.