

ATTACHMENT A

<b>Request for information from the Northern Territory government arising from the Committee's second report June 2009</b>		
<b>Page Reference</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Response required</b>
P 86 para 4.90 P 89 para 4.97	The committee undertook in its last report to monitor the operation of safe houses in the Northern Territory and to report on this issue in the next report. Furthermore, the committee was also in agreement with the NTER Review's recommendation that where safe houses have been installed, the Northern Territory government, the relevant service provider and each community should agree about their management, duty of care, liability and integration with associated services before they become operational, and as further safe houses are installed there be consultation with the relevant community on these issues. The committee undertook to monitor whether the construction of safe houses is following this procedure.	Please provide the committee with any relevant information on the NT government's role in the operation of safe houses, and whether the recommendation of the NTER Review has been followed in the construction of safe houses, and whether procedures are in place to ensure that it is followed in the future.
P 91 para 4.108 P 92 para 4.115	The committee agrees with the NTER Review's recommendation that a comprehensive strategy needs to be developed and implemented for youth development services to address both capital infrastructure and recurrent funding, linked to a wider community development framework. The committee notes that this recommendation was accepted by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments.	Please provide the committee with an update on how this recommendation is being implemented.  The committee would also appreciate any information on the success or otherwise of youth program funding in the Northern Territory. The committee regards youth services as essential for community wellbeing and wishes to be informed of any progress made in this area.
P 94 para 4.122	The NTER provided funding for an additional 200 teachers, with a commitment from the Commonwealth government of \$98.8 million over 5 years to achieve this.	Please provide the committee with an update on the implementation of this measure and current teacher numbers.  Please also provide any relevant information on the construction of additional teacher housing as part of the NTER measures.
P 95-96 para 4.128	The school nutrition program, which provides breakfast and lunch, is designed to increase attendance at schools. According to the Commonwealth government, the rationale was drawn from the Little Children are Sacred report which recommended that a school nutrition program be established.	Please provide updated figures on the number of schools that are in the prescribed areas that are currently with or without a nutrition program and any other relevant information regarding this measure.

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<p>P 149 para 5.56</p>	<p>The Working Future policy outlines the Northern Territory government's intention to reduce red tape through the employment of a Northern Territory Coordinator General for remote service delivery. The committee notes that this is a similar position to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) Coordinator General. The committee is interested in the improvements and effectiveness that both of these positions have had on remote service delivery.</p> <p>The policy also promises to improve funding arrangements and acknowledges that the provision of funds on an annual basis makes planning difficult. It undertakes to 'put in place a new way of allocating funding that is fair and that provides certainty for communities'. The committee welcomed the announcement and undertook to monitor and report on any funding changes and the effects the changes may have on service delivery.</p>	<p>Please provide the committee with any relevant information on the operations of the Northern Territory Coordinator General and the effectiveness of the role in improving remote service delivery to date.</p> <p>Please provide the committee with information on any changes to funding arrangements that have been made and what effects the NT government considers these have had on service delivery.</p>
<p>P 150 para 5.65</p>	<p>The committee's second report included concerns about the funding of homelands and outstations following changes to Territory and Commonwealth policy. The committee notes that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Territory and Commonwealth governments on Indigenous Housing, Accommodation and Related Services did not include 'any requirement that any of this money previously earmarked for outstations need be spent on outstations'.</p>	<p>Please provide the committee an update on the Northern Territory government's funding of homelands and outstations, with particular attention to any changes in the last six months.</p>
<p>P 157 para 5.89</p>	<p>Student/teacher ratios and ESL services to remote Indigenous schools</p>	<p>Please provide the committee with the most recent information on student/teacher ratios in remote schools in the Northern Territory and whether there have been any changes to the ratio for remote schools and areas with high ESL requirements.</p>