

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HALLS CREEK, STAFF AND PROGRAMS

1385. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth
- (1) How many staff does the Department have in Halls Creek?
  - (2) What are the classifications of those staff?
  - (3) What programs are currently being funded in Halls Creek?
  - (4) What is the purpose of each program referred to in (3)?
  - (5) How much funding is each program referred to in (3) receiving from the Department?
  - (6) If the amount referred to in (5) is not the total funding for the program how much is being contributed by which other organisations?
  - (7) How is the effectiveness of each program assessed?
  - (8) When is the effectiveness of each program assessed?
  - (9) Where can a report on the effectiveness of each program be accessed?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

- (1) Eight
- (2) The Department's Halls Creek office currently employs four full time field staff including:
  - Senior Field Officer (Officer in Charge) – Level 5 (Contract)
  - Children's Services Officer / Community Development and Funding Officer – Level 5
  - Field Officer – Level 2/4
  - Customer Service Officer / Financial Assistance Officer – Level 2.
  - There is one Field officer (Level 2/4) position which is currently vacant, however this has been advertised and the selection process almost complete.
  - Yarg-Man-Taam-Puuru (the Placement Support Unit) employs one Level 3 Hostel Co-ordinator and three full-time Level 1 Hostel assistants.District Manager, Team Leaders, Senior Practice Development Officer, Senior Officer Aboriginal Services and other Kimberley support staff provide complementary and supervisory services.
- (3) The following programs are currently being funded in Halls Creek:

Ngaringga Ngurra Safehouse	\$317,192.29
Supported Accommodation Assistance Program	
Plus Children's Services in refuges	\$25,000.00
Ngaringga Ngurra Financial Counselling	\$30,989.83
Ngaringga Ngurra Family Support Service	\$61,812.19
Shire of Halls Creek Youth Service	\$25,802.27
Wirrimanu Family Safety Project	\$48,394.25
- (4) The purpose of each program is outlined in their funding agreement and is as follows for each of the services:

Ngaringga Ngurra Safehouse

The Department for Community Development funds Ngaringga Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation to provide a Safe House. This Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Service is located in Halls Creek and is funded to provide safe accommodation and support for women, with or without children, who are escaping family violence and/or are in crisis. The service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

Ngaringga Ngurra Financial Counselling Service

The Department for Community Development funds Ngaringga Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation to provide a Financial Counselling Service to the Town of Halls Creek.

The purpose of the service is to assist individuals and families to maximise income and rationalise expenditure, to make informed decisions about their financial related problems and to act on these

decisions, through providing information, identifying and clarifying options, improving skills and supporting clients through the negotiation process.

The service may also offer support to individuals and families experiencing difficulties or crises that contribute to their financial difficulties. This support may be in the form of practical assistance, informal counselling or advice and linking to other available community resources and support networks. The service is aimed at financially disadvantaged people in the community, in particular Aboriginal people.

#### Ngaringga Ngurra Family Support Program

The Department for Community Development funds Ngaringga Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation to provide a Family Support Service to the Town of Halls Creek. The Department has recently suspended the funding due to not receiving their Audit for 2002. The Service has also failed to submit an acceptable Preferred Service Provider package to the Department. The Department is working with the organisation to reinstate their funding that will see them operate for a further three years.

The Family Support Program receives funds to provide family support services, with a focus on enhancing and developing family relationships and parenting issues within the family context. The program is to deliver programs for families combining with other Service Providers, including the Department for Community Development. The programs developed by the service will include community based family activities that promote positive family relationships.

#### Halls Creek Youth Services

The Department for Community Development funds the Shire of Halls Creek Youth Services to provide coordination of organised activities and programs to young people, in particular Aboriginal young people within the township of Halls Creek. This includes supporting and complementing existing and new services involved with young people. Core hours are after school hours and on weekends for a minimum of 38 hours per week with flexibility for specific activities.

#### Wirrimanu Family Safety Project

The Wirrimanu Family Safety Project operates within Wirrimanu Community, located approximately three hours drive by road south of Halls Creek, on the southern border of the Great Sandy Desert.

The Service aims to strengthen and maintain traditional culture to provide direction towards protecting, strengthening and supporting families against community social problems, violence and dysfunction.

- (5) See Question (3).
- (6) The funding of the Department as specified above are the only funds for each program to meet the agreed objectives. However, the service provider of each program may receive funds from other sources to complement these programs.
- (7) Each funded program has a 3-year Service Agreement with the Department for Community Development.

The Service Agreement outlines service specifications, reporting requirements and contractual obligations of both parties. It is a condition of this Service Agreement that a progress report is submitted twice yearly. The report must address each outcome objective for that service, specifying success in achieving each outcome objective. The service must also report on any factors that had limited the ability of the funded service to achieve each objective or of any difficulties encountered.

Additionally, the Service Agreement outlines that a service review is to be conducted twice within the period of the agreement, that is, approximately every 18 months.

A service review is the more formal process for assessing how well the funded service is meeting the agreed outcome objectives. Service reviews are also a forum for the service provider to raise any issues with the Department.

- (8) See above
- (9) The reports on the effectiveness of each program are the joint property of the service provider and the Department as per the conditions of the Service Agreement. For these reports to be released, negotiation would need to occur with these parties.