

## Submission 187 – Department of the Chief Minister Northern Territory Government

### Questions on Notice

Please find our response to QON.

**Ms McGOWAN:** We know the problem. We're looking for your answers. What have you done that's worked?

I'm sure you've got programs that you're proud of and are delivering results.

**Ms Bellenger:** Yes. Can we take that question on notice and get back to you? I can tell you that we do have a good role mentoring program: the Clontarf program.

**Ms McGOWAN:** Great. Take it on notice and get back to us. That would be great. Thank you, Chair.

Response to 1st question:

Ms McGowan's questions appear to be more focussed on improving representation of Indigenous people within the Public Service leadership. In terms of the Department of Education's contribution to developing leadership capability of young Aboriginal students, the government supports a range of engagement programs aimed at improving educational outcomes by maximising the attendance, participation and engagement of Aboriginal students. Total funding for engagement programs throughout 2016-17 is \$4.45M and the government will continue to commit \$4.4M in 2017-18.

The Clontarf Foundation operates school-based academies for Indigenous boys, providing mentoring support to attract and maintain engagement until Year 12. In 2017, it catered for 949 students in 14 government schools

Role Models and Leaders Australia and Stars Foundation operate school-based academies providing mentoring support to attract and maintain engagement for Indigenous girls until Year 12. In 2017, these academies catered for a total of 784 Indigenous girls in 14 government schools.

**Ms McGOWAN:** Could I just ask a follow-up question on that? You used a throwaway line about the role of education and schools from down south up here. I just know that, in my own electorate, we have Melbourne coming to the country and it works superbly. They bring their money, they bring their skills and they come back. Lots of my schools actually come up to the Northern Territory. Could you talk about that as an example of good practice that we could, perhaps, grow. Is it working well? Does it work well?

**Ms Bellenger:** It works really well. So it benefits for the school in actually seeing Aboriginal culture in place. We have the most intact Aboriginal culture across Australia. People are taken out to homelands and actually live with people living

very traditionally. But the other benefits of us is that the private schools actually invest in some of the infrastructure. In some places, like Gunbalanya, where I have been recently, they have actually left a teacher behind. So they actually fund a teacher in that school. I think the knowledge exchange or the life experience exchange between private students from –

**Ms McGOWAN:** And, in terms of business, what would it be worth? Or could you take it on notice? I think, economically, it might be worth a huge amount of money.

**Ms Bellenger:** I would have to take that on notice, but, definitely, we'll get back to you on that.

**Ms McGOWAN:** I'm interested in the number of schools, economic contribution. I think we can imagine the social contribution. One of our other terms of reference is how we can grow business that is not government. Education is really important.

The department does not have oversight of partnerships entered into between NT schools and interstate schools, nor does it collect data centrally regarding the number of students visiting communities as part of these partnerships.

The department can confirm the existence of a range of partnerships which we know, anecdotally, has benefitted the local economy, including:

- Approximately 200 students from interstate private schools visiting the Arnhem region to participate in the Garma festival
- Approximately 100 students from interstate schools visiting Yirrkala every year through the Culture College program supported by the Myer Foundation
- Approximately 80 further students visiting NTG schools through an exchange program (including Ramingining, Waruwi and Ngukurr)

The Department of the Chief Minister is currently investigating the potential for a ten-year partnership between Jabiru school and Caulfield Grammar school. This project will include a broad evaluation including contribution to the economy however is still in the planning stage.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the process.

Kind Regards,

Bridgette Bellenger  
Regional Network Leader  
Department of the Chief Minister  
Northern Territory Government