

Question on Notice

No. 80

Asked on Wednesday, 5 February 2020

MR S BENNETT asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With reference to page 35 of Griffith University's Supervised Community Accommodation (SCA) final report published on 16 December 2019 which highlighted the importance of assessing the types of incidents occurring in the Townsville SCAs—

Will the Minister explain why information about critical incidents in the Townsville SCAs were not available for Griffith University to analyse when this data was made available on 19 August 2019 in response to answer to Question on Notice No. 1093?

ANSWER

At the time the data was publicly available, the Department of Youth Justice was already considering the Griffith University report. It did not appear, on balance, that asking Griffith University to amend its report added value, given Ernst & Young had already been contracted to provide additional assessment of cost effectiveness, and given there would be an additional cost in asking Griffith University for further work and changes to the report.

Data used for the Griffith University report covered the time period to 31 March 2019. Data on incidents for Townsville was not included in the Griffith University original work in the timeframes available.

The Griffith University report makes it clear at page 59 that data collection needed to be reviewed and standardised. Further, work was conducted by Ernst & Young and their report was also published. The Ernst & Young report, at page 6, also makes the point that processes between Supervised Community Accommodations varied.

While data collection methods varied between sites, the data was collated and the total numbers of incidents presented publicly at the Estimates Committee on 25 July 2019.

Griffith University and Ernst & Young have been assisting the Department of Youth Justice to develop standardised processes, including reporting of incidents at all locations, as part of changes to the SCA program that are being implemented.

The Government has made it clear that if further evaluation shows the Supervised Community Accommodation program is not working, it will be closed.