

## Question on Notice

No. 939

Asked on 31 August 2022

**MR R KATTER** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

### QUESTION:

With reference to Blue cards in Aurukun, Cherbourg, Coen area, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mossman Gorge area, Mornington Island, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council communities, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah—

Will the Attorney-General advise (reported separately by Indigenous community) (a) how many Blue Cards were (i) applied for, (ii) approved, (iii) denied and (iv) cancelled/revoked in 2021-22 and (b) as a percentage, what were the primary grounds for them to be (i) denied or (ii) cancelled/revoked?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Traeger for his question.

The below table provides responses to part (a) of the Member's questions.

Indigenous Community	Number of blue card applications received	Approved* (cards issued)	Denied*	Cards cancelled/revoked*
Aurukun	81	59	4	11
Cherbourg	80	53	1	0
Coen	26	26	1	0
Doomadgee	93	79	1	2
Hopevale	44	39	0	2
Kowanyama	68	52	4	4
Lockhart River	52	44	3	3
Mapoon	7	7	0	0
Mossman	245	247	1	1
Mornington Island (Gununa)	32	26	4	2
Napranum	33	26	1	0
Palm Island	119	96	4	5
Pormpuraaw	45	33	2	5
Woorabinda	97	66	4	2
Wujal Wujal	6	5	1	0

Yarrabah	145	127	4	7
NPA Regional Council	206	186	5	2
TSI Regional Council	272	289	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1651</b>	<b>1460</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>

\*These outcomes may include outcomes for applications received in the previous financial year.

In relation to part (b) of the Member's question relating to the primary grounds for the denial, cancellation/revocation, Blue Card Services is unable to report on the specific offence types resulting in those outcomes because to do so would represent an unreasonable burden on the Department's resources. Data in relation to denials, cancellations and revocations is collected in a way that would require manual checking of records to identify primary grounds as requested.

Before denying or cancelling a blue card, Blue Card Services undertakes extensive steps to make contact and assist the applicant to engage in the process. This includes Blue Card Services' Identified Officers visiting community, attempting contact by post/phone/email/text messaging and attempting to engage with their known employer or community leaders.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to breaking down barriers for First Nations Queenslanders by providing more support through each step of the blue card process. In 2021-22, Blue Card Services:

- continued the implementation of the *Safe children and strong communities* strategy and action plan;
- expanded the dedicated team of identified liaison officers that help First Nations stakeholders with the blue card application and assessment processes and to provide a cultural lens into the decision-making process;
- provided targeted cultural capability training for staff;
- developed educational resources and podcasts for First Nations' communities and individuals and provided free, tailored workshops in person and online;
- published regular Blue Card Yarns newsletters, and
- increased attendance in remote communities and at community events giving people the opportunity to learn about the blue card system, eligibility and how to apply.