# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION NUMBER: 2646

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**2646. Ms L H Arries (EFF) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

In light of the shortage of social workers which the Republic is facing, what total number of social workers were appointed in 2019?

NW3129E

**REPLY:** In 2007, the Department of Social Development initiated a scholarship programme for social work graduates with a view to increasing the pool of social workers to respond to various social ills. Most of these graduates were absorbed in the national and provincial departments. In 2019, the

department approached the NT for funding with a view to employ more social work graduates.

Through the Presidential Employment Stimulus programme, the department appointed approximately 1300 social workers in the eight provinces commencing 1 June/July 2020 respectively for a period of three months. There was a further extension of the contract employment of social workers from 1 November/December 2021 respectively to 31 March 2022 due to the extension of the stimulus programme.