

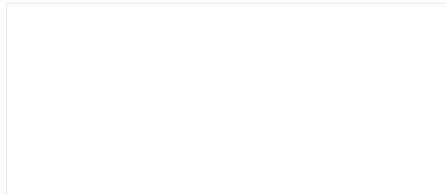
Question No : 221

Question : Primary Health Care - Rural

Question Date : 17/11/92

Member : Mr BAILEY

To : MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES



1. How many Aboriginal Health Worker positions exist in the Northern Territory; where are they based.
2. How many Aboriginal Health Workers have resigned this year.
3. Has any research been conducted on why Aboriginal Health Workers are resigning; if so, what does the research show.
4. How many Aboriginal Health Worker positions are currently vacant.
5. For how long have the positions referred to in question 4 been vacant.
6. What is the average length of replacement time for Aboriginal Health Workers.
7. Does the Northern Territory government propose to increase Aboriginal Health Worker positions; if so, when will those positions be put in place.
8. Where will the positions referred to in question 7 be placed.
9. Where will the 4 Aboriginal Health Worker trainers be based.
10. How many Department of Health and Community Services staff are dedicated to Aboriginal Health Worker training.
11. Have 10 positions for Aboriginal environmental workers been created; if so, where will those positions be based.
12. Will the positions referred to in question 11 be in addition to environmental health officers already based in Aboriginal communities.
13. What environmental health officer positions already exist in Aboriginal communities.
14. Have 10 Aboriginal Health Promotions Officer positions been created; if so, when will these positions be filled.

15. If the answer to question 14 is yes, where will the Aboriginal Health Promotions Officers be based.
16. How many nursing positions are based in rural and remote communities.
17. Where are the nursing positions based and how many are at each community.
18. Are any of the nursing positions referred to in question 16 vacant; if so, for how long have they been vacant.
19. How many nurses based in rural and remote areas have resigned in the following financial years -
 - (a) 1991-92; and
 - (b) 1992-93 to date.
20. What are the figures from the above questions expressed as percentage of the total number of staff in this area.
21. What is the average length of replacement time for nurses based in rural and remote communities.
22. What incentives are offered to nurses based in rural and remote areas.
23. Is the Northern Territory government taking action to facilitate and encourage training of Aboriginal nurses; if so, what action is being taken.
24. For what purpose will the empty former Community Health Centre in Tennant Creek be used and at what level will it be maintained.

ANSWER

1. See attachment A.
2. 21 (This does not include those employees who resign and seek immediate re-engagement).
3. In February 1992, the department appointed a Project Officer to address the issue of recruitment, retention and education of AHWs. Two consultants, Paul Josif and Christine Franks, were contracted by the department to examine issues associated with the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal Health Workers.

Many of the issues identified by the consultants related to cross-cultural understanding and communication.
4. 6 positions.

5. 2 to 6 months.
6. The period a position remains vacant depends on location and situation. Some positions can be filled in a week. Others are much more difficult. Unlike staff in most other positions in the NTPS, AHWs tend to resign without advance notice. The process of identifying possible replacements then becomes one of consultation between the community and the department.

7., 8. & 9.

Apart from the 10 additional Aboriginal Health promotion positions and the 10 additional Aboriginal Environmental Health positions, the government approved an additional 44 Aboriginal Health Worker positions for the department following consideration of the Cresap Report. Twelve of those positions were allocated early this year as follows -

2 AHW positions	Gagudju Association
2 AHW Trainers	Health & Community Services (H&CS) Alice Springs Rural District
1 AHW Trainer	H&CS Darwin Rural District
1 AHW Trainer	H&CS Katherine District
1 AHW Trainer	H&CS East Arnhem District
1 AHW Manager	H&CS East Arnhem District
1 AHW Manager	H&CS Barkly District
1 AHW Asst Manager	H&CS Darwin Rural District
1 AHW Asst Manager	H&CS Katherine District
1 AHW Asst Manager	H&CS Alice Springs Rural District

Most of these positions are now filled.

The previous Minister for Health and Community Services recently approved the allocation of the remaining 32 positions as follows -

4 AHW Trainers	1 Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
	1 H&CS Barkly District
	1 H&CS Katherine District
	1 H&CS Darwin Rural District
1 AHW Asst Manger	H&CS East Arnhem District
2 Aboriginal Hospital Liaison)	1 Gove Hospital
2 Health Information) Project)	1 Tennant Creek Hospital
1 Renal Dialysis Liaison	Menzies School of Health Research
3 AHW	H&CS Alice Springs Urban District
	H&CS Alice Springs Rural District
2 AHW	Anyinginyi Health Service Tennant Creek
2 AHW	H&CS Barkly District

2 AHW	Wurli Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service (Katherine)
1 AHW	Binjari (Katherine)
2 AHW	H&CS Katherine District
2 AHW	Danila Dilba Aboriginal Health Service (Darwin)
2 AHW	H&CS Darwin Urban District
3 AHW	H&CS Darwin Rural District (at least one position will be based with an Aboriginal controlled health service)
3 AHW	H&CS East Arnhem District (1 or 2 positions will be based with Aboriginal controlled health services)

10. In total 8 H&CS positions will be dedicated to AHW training and support.

11. They will be located across the Territory. Action is in hand to select the locations in consultation with Aboriginal Communities.

12. & 13.

There were no equivalent positions on Aboriginal Communities funded by the Department of Health and Community Services.

14. Nine of the 10 positions are either filled or have been offered to the successful applicants. The remaining position is to be readvertised.

15. Two positions will be based in each of the urban centres of Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to provide a health promotion service to the surrounding rural and remote communities.

16. The number of nursing positions (HACS plus HACS grants funded) in rural and remote areas is 92.

17. DARWIN DISTRICT RURAL

HACS CENTRES		GIA	
Adelaide River	2	Bathurst Island	3
Batchelor	2	Port Keats	4
Maningrida	4	Daly River	2
Oenpelli	3	Palumpa	1
		Peppimenarti	2
		Goulburn	1
		Tipperary Station	1

KATHERINE DISTRICT

HACS CENTRES		GIA	
Barunga	3	Kalano	1

Lajamanu	2
Kalkaringi	2
Timber Creek	2
Pine Creek	2
Mataranka	1
Ngukurr	1
Borrooloola	1
Relief	1

EAST ARNHEM DISTRICT

HACS CENTRES

GIA

Yirrkala	1	
Alyangula	1	
Angurugu	4	
Numbulwar	2	
Ramingining	1	
Milingimbi		1

Galiwinku	3
Gapuwiyak	2

BARKLY DISTRICT

HACS CENTRES

GIA

Ali Curung	2
Elliott	2
Barkly Mobile	2

ALICE SPRINGS RURAL DISTRICT

HACS CENTRES

GIA

Docker River	1	
Relief	5	
Harts Range	1	
Hermannsburg	2	
Papunya	2	
Willowra		1
Yuendumu	2	
Ti Tree	2	
Rural Mobile	2	

Santa Teresa	2
RFDS	6
Yulara	2

18. Positions vacant 2. (1 GIA and 1 HACS).

19. The figures for just rural and remote communities are not readily available. The figures below include management and rural/remote support positions.

In 1991-92 a total of 50 nurses resigned.

In 1992-93 a total of 10 nurses have resigned to November.

20. 32% of total nursing staff in remote and rural areas resigned in 1991-92. 6% of total nursing staff in remote and rural areas had resigned in 1992-93 up to November.

21. Approximately 2 months depending on length of notice given by resigning staff.

22. Nurses in remote areas are paid at either 3A or 3B level.

Depending on the area they reside in, they are eligible for Fares out of Isolation (FOIL) and receive rent and electricity subsidies.

23. Discussions have taken place with the Centre for Aboriginal Studies and Education at NTU to look at strategies for encouraging entry into the nursing profession. The details are not finalised yet.

24. The Community Health Centre in Tennant Creek currently houses the 'Sunshine Creche', the one General Practitioner Medical Officer and a private Dentist.

The GP and Dentist are scheduled to move to the Tennant Creek Hospital campus in February 1993.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the Tennant Creek town council.

The Sunshine Creche is in need of increased space, both within the building as well as the grounds. The remainder could be used for offices.

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