

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

Morgues

1. **Many families are paying more than \$15,000 for funeral homes to hold the bodies of family members from remote communities. Are the morgues reaching capacity?**
 - a. **If so, how many days has the morgue in Darwin been at capacity for during this financial year?**

The mortuary at Royal Darwin Hospital is managed in coordination with external providers to ensure capacity is maintained.

- b. **How many days has the morgue in Gove been at capacity for during this financial?**

130 days. Gove District Hospital works with the community to identify a suitable mortuary and may refer families to the closest mortuary.

2. **What regulations are in place for funeral homes to ensure that vulnerable families are not taken advantage of? What funding is allocated to help support families with funeral processes?**

Funeral service fees are variable dependent on the service provided and consumer choice. If the deceased is eligible for Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) repatriation, NT Health through PATS will cover this.

NT Health social workers provide information and support to families so they can make appropriate and informed arrangements for their deceased.

The Medical and Bereavement Support Officer at Royal Darwin Hospital works with families and councils to make arrangements in complex cases.