



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 88

## WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Uibo to the Minister for Health, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

### Doctor and Nurse Positions

1. How many doctors in the Northern Territory are currently on temporary contracts at Royal Darwin Hospital, Palmerston Regional Hospital, Alice Springs Hospital, Gove District Hospital, Tennant Creek Hospital and Katherine Hospital? How many are on permanent contracts?

#### Headcount:

Hospital	Permanent	Temporary/ contract	Casual	Total
Alice Springs Hospital	6	193	4	203
Gove Hospital		43		43
Katherine Hospital		41		41
Palmerston Regional Hospital		77		77
Royal Darwin Hospital		531	7	538
Tennant Creek Hospital		19		19
Integrated Care Directorate		24	1	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>946</b>

Data as at 10 April 2025

#### FTE:

Hospital	Permanent	Temporary/ contract	Casual	Total
Alice Springs Hospital	6	180.29	2.72	189.01
Gove Hospital		30.75		30.75
Katherine Hospital		32.71		31.71
Palmerston Regional Hospital		70.13		70.13
Royal Darwin Hospital		462.78	3.45	466.23
Tennant Creek Hospital		15.94		15.94
Integrated Care Directorate		21.64	0.06	21.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>814.23</b>	<b>6.23</b>	<b>826.46</b>

Data as at 10 April 2025

Note: above figures do not include agency labour hire.  
FTE based on 38-hour week. Headcount based on individuals paid during pay period 21 regardless of hours worked. Difference between FTE and headcount due to fractional nature of workforce.

2. How many nurses in the Northern Territory are currently on temporary contracts at Royal Darwin Hospital, Palmerston Regional Hospital, Alice Springs Hospital, Gove District Hospital, Tennant Creek Hospital and Katherine Hospital? How many are on permanent contracts?

**Headcount:**

Hospital	Permanent	Temporary/ contract	Casual	Total
Alice Springs Hospital	484	116	59	659
Gove Hospital	56	22	4	82
Katherine Hospital	80	23	6	109
Palmerston Regional Hospital	194	25		219
Royal Darwin Hospital	1,017	195	169	1,381
Tennant Creek Hospital	30	12	2	44
Integrated Care Directorate	244	35		279
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>2,773</b>

*Data as at 10 April 2025*

**FTE:**

Hospital	Permanent	Temporary/ contract	Casual	Total
Alice Springs Hospital	398.82	101.97	38.87	539.66
Gove Hospital	44.93	16.79	1.50	63.22
Katherine Hospital	60.89	17.32	3.23	81.44
Palmerston Regional Hospital	164.86	18.62	-	183.48
Royal Darwin Hospital	792.09	154.48	95.95	1,042
Tennant Creek Hospital	26.63	10.00	1.09	37.72
Integrated Care Directorate	206.82	27.85		234.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 695.04</b>	<b>347.03</b>	<b>140.64</b>	<b>2,182.71</b>

*Data as at 10 April 2025*

*Note: above figures do not include agency labour hire.*

*FTE based on 38-hour week. Headcount based on individuals paid during pay period 21 regardless of hours worked. Difference between FTE and headcount due to fractional nature of workforce.*

3. How many doctor positions are currently vacant at Royal Darwin Hospital, Palmerston Regional Hospital, Alice Springs Hospital, Gove District Hospital, Tennant Creek Hospital and Katherine Hospital? How long have they been vacant?

Hospital	Current Pay Vacancy (FTE)
Alice Springs Hospital	26
Gove Hospital	0
Katherine Hospital	7
Palmerston Regional Hospital	1
Royal Darwin Hospital	16
Tennant Creek Hospital	0
Integrated Care Directorate	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

Data as at 10 April 2025; Note: above figures do not include agency labour hire.

1. Vacancy as a percentage of approved operating FTE. This number is subject to change and is dependent on operational requirements.

Determining how long positions have been vacant would require significant investigation and the commitment of excessive administration resources.

4. How many nurse positions are currently vacant at Royal Darwin Hospital, Palmerston Regional Hospital, Alice Springs Hospital, Gove District Hospital, Tennant Creek Hospital and Katherine Hospital? How long have they been vacant?

Hospital	Current Pay Vacancy (FTE)
Alice Springs Hospital	56
Gove Hospital	6
Katherine Hospital	19
Palmerston Regional Hospital <sup>2</sup>	53
Royal Darwin Hospital <sup>2</sup>	24
Tennant Creek Hospital	19
Integrated Care Directorate	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>

Data as at 10 April 2025; Note: above figures do not include agency labour hire.

1. Vacancy as a percentage of approved operating FTE. This number is subject to change and is dependent on operational requirements.
2. Allocation of nursing staff changes frequently and will therefore skew the vacancy rate across these two campuses.

Determining how long positions have been vacant would require significant investigation and the commitment of excessive administration resources.

5. How many locum doctor placements have occurred in Northern Territory hospitals in the past three months? What was the total cost of these, including salary, transport, accommodation, and any other costs?

**Locum doctors (incl. Visiting Medical Officer)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>FTE</b>	72.09	66.84	59.57

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Description	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Wages</b>	\$3 861 765	\$3 566 224	\$3 263 500	<b>\$10 691 489</b>
<b>Agency fees</b>	\$317 193	\$308 217	\$189 742	<b>\$815 152</b>
<b>Travel expenses</b>	\$157 163	\$198 091	\$170 068	<b>\$525 322</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	\$214 976	\$229 505	\$239 254	<b>\$683 735</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>	\$110 604	\$49 189	\$112 761	<b>\$272 554</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4 661 701</b>	<b>\$4 351 226</b>	<b>\$3 975 325</b>	<b>\$12 988 252</b>

**Nursing agency**

	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>FTE</b>	113.46	126.13	137.20

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Description	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Wages</b>	\$2 628 386	\$2 957 303	\$3 064 913	<b>\$8 650 602</b>
<b>Agency fees</b>	\$2 415	(\$33 030)	\$116 073	<b>\$85 458</b>
<b>Travel expenses</b>	(\$2 957)	\$43 860	\$47 657	<b>\$88 560</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	\$31 669	\$43 087	\$49 100	<b>\$123 856</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>	\$3 938	\$755	\$176	<b>\$4 869</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2 663 451</b>	<b>\$3 011 975</b>	<b>\$3 277 919</b>	<b>\$8 953 345</b>