

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Health:

Christmas and New Year's Eve wage cost

1. Please provide the cost of wages for Christmas Eve 2015 (or 24th December 2015) compared to Christmas Eve 2016 (or 24th December 2016) for the Top End Health Service and the Central Australian Health Service.
2. Please provide the cost of wages for New Year's Eve 2015 (or 31st December 2015) compared to New Year's Eve 2016 (or 31st December 2016) for the Top End Health Service and the Central Australia Health Service.

Wages for the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) employees are paid on a fortnightly basis pursuant to the NTPS 2013-2017 Enterprise Agreement.

The following tables show the Top End Health Service (TEHS) and Central Australia Health Service (CAHS) for the two fortnights that capture the two new public holidays, namely Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

A public holiday is only one of a number of different variables that can influence the cost of wages in any given fortnight. Other factors include service demand, staff leave, staff turnover and structural changes.

In December 2016, the Oral, Health and Cancer Screening programs were transferred from the Department of Health to the two Health Services, thus making the wages comparison between 2015 and 2016 complex.

The major, but not only, influence of public holidays is to the cost of penalties, which is a component of the cost of wages.

Below is a table which details the cost of penalties over the relevant pay periods for the two health services, with adjustments taken into account for the effect of wage increases as a result of Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) increases and movements in Full-Time Equivalent (FTE).

**Christmas Eve Pay
Period**

	Penalties for		Difference
	Christmas Eve Pay Period 2015	Christmas Eve Pay Period 2016	
TEHS	2,244,449	2,704,778	460,329
CAHS	1,111,659	1,276,574	164,915

**New Year's Eve Pay
Period**

	Penalties for		Difference
	New Year's Eve Pay Period 2015	New Year's Eve Pay Period 2016	
TEHS	1,702,480	2,145,268	442,788
CAHS	835,307	949,800	114,493