

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Surgery Delays

- 1. There have been three elective surgery delays and one “code yellow” at Royal Darwin Hospital since August last year – what is being done to address this situation? Has there been any budget allocated to help address this situation?**

Top End Health Service (TEHS) has rescheduled all deferred surgical cases to meet national elective surgery targets.

Actions taken to address capacity issues and to increase patient flow include:

- Continued engagement with regional hospitals to transition patients back to those areas when it is clinically safe to do so.
- Establishment of an aged care working group to pursue opportunities with the Australian Government to provide greater support to aged care providers in an attempt to reduce admissions to acute care hospitals.
- Implemented TEHS policy and procedure to better manage long stay patients in hospital.

Commencement of surgical services at Palmerston Regional Hospital (PRH) with day surgery will allow additional acute and emergency surgery to be done at RDH. This will facilitate quicker access to operating theatre and shorter length of stay, thus freeing up more beds for elective surgical access.

Additional Clinical Nurse Specialist and Aboriginal Health Practitioner to the Acute Surgical team will also facilitate increased co-ordination of care and reduced length of stay to increase capacity at RDH.

2. Have there been any elective surgery delays or code yellows at Alice Springs Hospital in the last year? If so, please detail them.

There were 194 overdue elective surgical cases as at 30 June 2018.

At 30 June 2018, 90% of Category 1 patients were treated in time, 88% Category 2 patients were treated in time and 75% category 3 patients were treated in time.

Alice Springs Hospital utilises a measure of capacity, rather than using a code system including 'Code Yellow'.

For the period 1 July 2017 – 31 May 2018 there were 46 incidents of extreme activity at Alice Springs Hospital.

3. Have there been any elective surgery delays or code yellows at Tennant Creek Hospital in the last year? If so, please detail them

No.