

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Mental Health Services and Resources

- 1. Are there any mental health services in the Northern Territory which are still waiting for a five year funding agreement from the NTG? If so, who are they and why haven't they received their agreement yet?**

No.

- 2. The Productivity Commission reports that the NT had the highest number of mental health admissions per percentage of population in Australia while the AIHW data shows that the NT is among the lowest number of funded mental health beds in Australia. What are you doing to address the problem and at what cost?**

The Northern Territory Government invests approximately \$60 million dollars into clinical mental health services in the Northern Territory. The investment into Community Managed Mental Health Services is approximately \$9 million per annum. The Northern Territory Government is working with the NT Primary Health Network, as agreed to in the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, to jointly plan the future investment in mental health and suicide prevention services to address system issues and service gaps.

- 3. What work is being done and resources allocated for the improvement of mental health services in the Northern Territory?**

See response to question 2.

- 4. According to the Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition there is no bulk billing GP in Katherine and no private GP at all in Tennant Creek. What are you doing to try to attract these services to Katherine and Tennant Creek?**

This is the role of the NT Primary Health Network.

- 5. Last year we asked about more mental health facilities in the NT and you said yourself and the assistant minister had looked at facilities interstate and "it is something we have been looking at" (p79, Hansard, 14/6/18). Has there been any progress in this regard? Any plans to provide additional mental health facilities at all in the NT?**

In the recent pre-election period, the now Australian Government made a commitment of funding for a new adult mental health centre. This is being explored with the Australian Government.

- 6. What has happened with the forensic mental health review? Has it been released? Who did it and how much did it cost? Has the government accepted it and developed an implementation timeframe?**

The Report on the Review of Forensic Mental Health and Disability Services within the Northern Territory is currently under consideration by Government. For further information please refer to the response relating to this Review under sub question 47, written question 562.

- 7. Going by public figures (AR, p58) the total number of people accessing mental health services exceeded the budgeted target as a result of organisations delivering services to a greater number of clients. Clearly and sadly there is an increasing need for mental health services in the Northern Territory - why is there only a small increase in the Budget for mental health?**

See response to question 2.