

Question No: 26

Question: Laundry Costs at Northern Territory Hospitals

Date: 30/04/91

Member: Mr EDE

To: MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. What is the anticipated total cost in the 1990-91 financial year of supplying hospital laundry services at each of the following hospitals -

- (a) Darwin;
- (b) Nhulunbuy;
- (c) Katherine;
- (d) Tennant Creek; and
- (e) Alice Springs.

2. What is the estimated cost in each of the above named hospitals on a per occupied bed day basis.

3. What proportion of total laundry capacity was utilised in each hospital in the 1989-90 financial year.

4. Do any Northern Territory hospitals take in laundry from external public or private institutions.

5. If any hospital does take in laundry from these sources, what is the costing basis applied to this services.

ANSWER

1. \$000s

- (a) Royal Darwin Hospital 1 240
- (b) Gove District Hospital 185
- (c) Katherine Hospital 335
- (d) Tennant Creek Hospital 107
- (e) Alice Springs Hospital 984

This expenditure represents identifiable salaries, administrative and operational, capital and property management costs.

2. In achieving a degree of standardisation in costing techniques comparisons in costs on a per occupied bed day basis may be drawn between the Royal Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals.

The estimated cost of providing laundry services on a per occupied bed day basis at the smaller hospitals is difficult to ascertain. These hospitals have internally recorded information of workload indicators, however, their costing techniques are not comparable with those maintained by the larger hospitals.

- (a) Royal Darwin Hospital per occupied bed day basis \$13.14
- (b) Alice Springs Hospital per occupied bed day basis \$18.23

3. (a) Royal Darwin Hospital 80%
(b) Alice Springs Hospital 73%

Comments made under question 2 also apply to question 3.

4. Northern Territory Hospitals take in laundry from external organisations. Services are provided by and to the following -

(a) Royal Darwin Hospital Rehabilitation Centre
Vaccination Centre
Crisis Line
Parap Day Centre
Tracy Lodge
Tamarind Centre
Harry Giese Centre
Albert Albany Centre
St John Ambulance at Darwin, and Palmerston
Various school medical rooms.

(b) Gove District Hospital One private service industry.

(c) Katherine Hospital Red Cross
St John Ambulance.

(d) Tennant Creek Hospital St John Ambulance
Private medical practitioner.

(e) Alice Springs Hospital St John Ambulance
Batchelor College
RFDS
Other departmental programs eg dental, dialysis.

5. The Royal Darwin Hospital does not raise charges for the above laundry services.

The Gove District Hospital raises various charges for individual items. An average monthly account of \$520 is rendered for this service.

The Katherine Hospital does not raise charges for the above services.

The Tennant Creek Hospital raises a charge of \$0.87 per kilogram for St John Ambulance laundry.

The Alice Springs Hospital raises a charge of \$0.83 per kilogram for St John Ambulance laundry.