

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Health:

Special Needs Diagnosis

- 1. What is the average wait time between a referral and a specialist assessment through the public system to get a special needs diagnosis for a child in the Northern Territory? What has been the longest wait time?**

'Special Needs' is a very broad term and does not have a medical definition or code that can be audited to respond accurately.

Children who would fall under this broad umbrella would be triaged as to their urgency, parental and clinic concern.

Staff undertaking triage and diagnostic support services work with relevant community providers for optimal engagement.

Average wait time between referral and assessment across NT Health children's development services varies depending on urgency from one month to 6 months, with the maximum wait time of 10 months.

- 2. What is the average age at which children are diagnosed with special needs?**

'Special Needs' is not a specific diagnosis so there is no data.

- 3. Can you provide the prevalence of families who seek a private diagnosis while awaiting a specialist appointment through the public system?**

This information relates to non NT Government services, as such NT Health is unable to provide this data.