

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

#### Contracts and Procurement

1. From the answers provided to our Global Questions...it appears the agency clocked up \$255,600 in legal fees from interstate barristers and solicitors – is that for one case or several? Why weren't local firms used?
  2. The Department was found to have been non-compliant with procurement rules by “not obtaining a minimum of three written Quotations for Tier Two Supplies when applying Select Quotation Processes” – please provide details behind this finding.
  3. From the answers provided to our Global Questions....Flinders University gained a \$31,427 contract to “Conduct an Outreach Review within Primary Health Care on the Structure and Service Delivery of Outreach Services” - why was Flinders University chosen? Were there any Northern Territory companies who could have done the work?
  4. From the answers provided to our Global Questions....Victorian company Steam Consulting Pty Ltd was given a \$12,541 contract for a “Gap Analysis for Oral Health Services in Central Australia” – why was Steam Consulting chosen? Were there any Northern Territory companies who could have done the work?
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#### RESPONSE

- 1. From the answers provided to our Global Questions...it appears the agency clocked up \$255,600 in legal fees from interstate barristers and solicitors – is that for one case or several? Why weren't local firms used?**

NT Health is required to engage interstate solicitors and barristers for specialist legal matters. In 2017-18, a number of legal matters required NT Health to engage interstate specialist solicitors and barristers.

- 2. The Department was found to have been non-compliant with procurement rules by “not obtaining a minimum of three written**

**Quotations for Tier Two Supplies when applying Select Quotation Processes” – please provide details behind this finding.**

Audit sampling of procurement activities conducted for NT Health over an eight month period found two tier 2 transactions with less than three quotes. Feedback was provided and process improvements implemented.

- 3. From the answers provided to our Global Questions....Flinders University gained a \$31,427 contract to “Conduct an Outreach Review within Primary Health Care on the Structure and Service Delivery of Outreach Services” - why was Flinders University chosen? Were there any Northern Territory companies who could have done the work?**

The Centre for Remote Health is a branch of the Flinders University and is based in Alice Springs. As a Northern Territory based provider, with the required skills and expertise they were approached to provide this requirement.

- 4. From the answers provided to our Global Questions....Victorian company Steam Consulting Pty Ltd was given a \$12,541 contract for a “Gap Analysis for Oral Health Services in Central Australia” – why was Steam Consulting chosen? Were there any Northern Territory companies who could have done the work?**

This is a specialised service and is not available in the Northern Territory. The purpose of the consultancy was to ensure that Central Australia Oral Health meet the National Standards compliance requirements.