

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Palmerston Dialysis Centre

1. Does the Palmerston Dialysis Centre have backup generators for use during times of power failure, such as a cyclone? If not, why not and if not, what do dialysis patients do in this situation?
2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, does this provide certainty of treatment to dialysis patients during times of emergency? What are the procedures?

RESPONSE

1 and 2.

Each dialysis unit has a cyclone plan which is activated in the event of a cyclone warning for Darwin.

All patients receive dialysis treatments prior to the cyclone. The cyclone plans are updated each year prior to the cyclone season and are included in the Top End Health Service emergency plans.

The Palmerston Dialysis Unit does not have a back-up generator for use during power failure. Each haemodialysis machine has internal battery back-up that will allow the machine to function for 20 minutes in the event of a power failure.

If the power is not restored within that timeframe, patients can be safely disconnected from the machines. Dialysis can be resumed when the power is restored or patients can be transferred to another dialysis unit to continue their treatment.