

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Berrimah Sobering Up Shelter

1. In the past 12 months, how many individuals have been transported to the sobering up shelter?

In the period April 2018 to March 2019, there have been 7341 individual clients attend the Sobering up Shelter (SUS).

2. Of these, how many were transported to the shelter on more than one occasion?

979 individual clients attended the SUS on more than one occasion.

3. What is the protocol when an individual is discharged from the sobering up shelter? Is transport provided? Are specific instructions or additional support given to the individual?

During the client's stay at the SUS, staff assist the client to identify the assistance they may need. External services attend the SUS to provide outreach support and to link clients into their services. Referrals are made to other relevant agencies as appropriate.

Prior to discharge, clients are provided with breakfast – during this time, brief interventions are conducted including the use of the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) tool.

Larrakia Nation attend the SUS at set times in the morning and on a call out basis to provide transport to clients leaving the SUS.

4. Please list the businesses and other stakeholders consulted, if any, prior to the sobering up shelter being located at Berrimah.

The Stringybark Centre at Berrimah had been established as a treatment facility under the previous government's *Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act*. In 2017, during the development of the implementation plan for the Banned Drinker Register, a proposal was developed to create an Integrated Alcohol and Other Drugs Service model on the Berrimah site. The co-location of the SUS with withdrawal and rehabilitation services was considered best practice and an enhancement to existing therapeutic access.

On 12 April 2017, a Future Tender Opportunity (F17-0083) was publicly advertised through the Northern Territory Government website. Potential service operators had more than six weeks advance notice to consider applying and commence their internal preparations. Invitations to submit expressions of interest, addressing the advertised selection criteria, were called for on 25 May 2017 (D17-0139). Expressions of Interest were open for approximately three weeks with the closing date of 13 June 2017.

The process included an Industry briefing on 31 May 2017 and a site inspection on 1 June 2017.

5. Please give details of the decision making process which led to the sobering up shelter being located at Berrimah.

As noted above in the response to question 4.

In addition to the value of co-location with other treatment services in enabling a 'one stop shop' client pathway, other advantages identified in the move included:

- increasing the number of available beds within the much larger building
- improving ease of access and staff safety in the vehicle access configuration
- being able to re-purpose a significant government asset
- reducing expenditure by ceasing a lease on a private property.