

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Health Staffing Issues

1. How much unrostered overtime is carried out by clinical staff at the Northern Territory's five main hospitals? What is the average number of hours of unrostered overtime?
2. Have you decreased staffing at community care centres? If so, by how much, where and why?
3. How many apartments/houses does the Department rent to accommodate visiting staff and accommodate new staff before they are sent to remote clinics?
4. What is the occupancy rate of these properties?
5. What booking system is used for these properties?
6. Are the rents subsidised by the agency? If so, how much is the annual expenditure for the agency?
7. How many Darwin based staff members use the accommodation? Have any stayed longer than six months?
8. Did you end up developing an Aboriginal Employment Plan? Is it in place? What does it look like? Who developed it?
9. It's been a year since you awarded a panel tender to eight third party employment agencies, engaged for finding nurses and midwives for the NT. Have they been effective?

10. How many nurses and midwives have been hired through these employment agencies and at what cost?
11. You have previously stated the eRecruit system for bulk recruitment had yielded more than 350 applications - how many of those applications were successful hires?
12. What is the vacancy rate for nurses and midwives in the public health system in the Northern Territory?
13. The Langoulant report on page 73 says, in part: "The use of labour hire (for example, agency nurses) has also increased significantly, growing from around \$9m in 2006/07 to around \$61m in 2017/18..."

It continues: "The Territory cannot afford to continue this trajectory without making significant cuts to other government services." Do you have any plans to address or at least review the use of labour hire staff by your department?

14. Last year about \$3.5 million in compensation payouts to staff had occurred during the period 1 Jul 2017 to 31 Mar 2018. Have there been any in the last year? How many and for how much? What were the reasons for the payouts?
15. How many medical professionals are currently employed by your department on contractual terms of 12 months or less?
16. From the Global Questions on Health, why has the overall number of FTEs increased by 355?
17. From the Global Questions on Health, why have you increased your supernumeraries by 114? How many do you expect to confirm as a full time employee?
18. From the Global Questions on Health, you have had 11 stress related claims – are any of those for bullying?

19. What is the number of non-local doctors and specialists contracted by the TEHS and CAHS?
20. What is the cost of wages for these contracted doctors and specialists?
21. What is the cost of accommodation and travel for these contracted doctors and specialists?
22. What medical specialties are under-resourced in terms of qualified practitioners in the Top End Health Service and the Central Australian Health Service?
23. How many nurses and personal care assistants are contracted from outside service providers to make up for the shortfall in staffing in the TEHS and CAHS?
24. At what cost?
25. How many medical professionals are current employed by your department on contractual terms of 12 months or less