

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Prison Health Episodes

1. What constitutes a "prison health episode of care"?

A prison health episode of care is an occasion of service for which an entry is made into the Health Service record.

2. How much does it cost to deliver health services to Darwin Prison? To Alice Springs Prison? To the youth detention centres?

Central Australia Health Service (2018-19 budget)

Prison Health	\$2 989 033
Youth Detention	\$ 229 947

Top End Health Service (2018-19 budget)

Prison Health	\$4 031 147
Youth Detention	\$ 640 000

3. There were 60,000 prison health episodes of care in the Top End (BP3, p123). What was the most common "episode" and does that figure apply only to the prison population in Darwin of around 1,000-1,500? Does that mean, on average, each prisoner had 40 "health episodes of care" in the year?

The most common episode was the provision of medication to a prisoner. At any given time, there are at least 1000 prisoners, but with very high movement in and out of prison, it is difficult to calculate average episodes of care.

- 4. There were 34,000 prison health episodes of care in Central Australia (BP3, p133). What was the most common “episode” and does that figure apply only to the prison population in Alice Springs of around 600-650? Does that mean, on average, each prisoner had 52 “health episodes of care” in the year?**

The most common episode was a Return to Prison check. With very high movement in and out of prison, it is difficult to calculate average consultations.