

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Health

Hospital Acute Services Performance Measuring

Acute Services has risen from a base of \$272 million to \$371 million since 2001:

1. What performance measures are in place to determine the need to increase this funding level and the success of that funding increase?

ANSWER

In 2002/03 the opening budget for Acute Services was \$272M as compared to the closing estimate of \$371M for 2004/05.

Since 2002/03, \$20M of Patient Retrieval and Travel Services are now identified as Acute Services expenditure, \$24M was provided for standard wage and price increase adjustments, including funding requirements under revised awards for Nursing, Doctors and Administrative staff and \$11M relates to the introduction of notional Department of Corporate Information Services charges, previously not charged.

Indicators are in place to record and monitor hospital performance. These indicators are required for national reporting requirements such as the *Report on Government Services*, the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) Annual Report and are also used internally within DHCS.

The indicators reported within the 2004/05 DHCS Annual Report are:

- Admitted Patient Services
 - Hospital Activity Model weighted inlier equivalent separations (WIES)
 - Non acute bed days
 - Beds accredited by the Australian Council on Health Standards
 - Elective surgery waiting times
 - Output Costs
 - Growth in Acute Inpatient WIES
 - Inpatient WIES compared with hospital expenditure, 2000/01-2004/05
 - Acute Inpatient Activity – WIES by Indigenous Status, m2004/05
 - Major Diagnostic Categories – Non Indigenous, 2003/04 and 2004/05
 - Major Diagnostic Categories Indigenous, 2003/04 and 2004/05
 - Average length of stay excluding same day, 2004/05
 - Same day renal treatment
 - Same day renal treatments, 1995/96 to 2004/05
- Admitted Patient Services

Non admitted specialist clinic occasions of service
Emergency department attendances
Hospitals providing 24 hour access to emergency department
Emergency department waiting times
Non admitted specialist clinic OOS – All NT Hospitals 2000/01 – 2004/05
Emergency attendances – All NT Hospitals 2000/01 – 2004/05

A snapshot comparing jurisdictional hospital performance was published in The State of Our Public Hospitals, June 2005 report. This snapshot highlights the workload of the NT public hospitals and our level of performance compared with other jurisdictions.