

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Health:

Health – Aboriginal Health Practitioners Structure Review

Background:

Your response to a previous Written Question shows that a \$10,000 consultancy was awarded to Adelaide based Mercer Consulting for the provision of an Aboriginal Health Practitioners Career Structure Review.

Questions:

1. Please advise why this tender was not released publically?

Tier 1 requests (<\$15,000) require a minimum of one quote.

2. Why was the awarded tender not published on the Tenders online web page?

Tier 1 awards are not required to be published.

3. If the awarded tender was published publically somewhere else, please provide details.

As above

4. Why was this Adelaide based consulting firm offered a select tender?

Mercer Consulting designed and consulted on the Job Evaluation System for the whole NTPS and, therefore, know the framework used by the NT to assess work value for this type of professional workforce structure review. It is essential that the Aboriginal Health Practitioner professional workforce aligns with other classifications in the NTPS.

5. Was OCPE involved in the facilitation of this review? If not, why not?

Yes. OCPE led the negotiations, development and implementation of the NTPS Aboriginal Health Practitioner (AHP) 2018 -2022 Enterprise Agreement which included the engagement of Mercer to develop the AHP career structure.

6. What were the outcomes and recommendations from the review?

The review informed the new Aboriginal Health Practitioner career structure and its objectives to professionalise the workforce; enhance career pathways and increase attraction and retention efforts.

7. How was this advice utilised in the delivery of health services in the Territory?

Aboriginal Health Practitioners are a unique profession to provide clinical support founded on traditional Aboriginal values that are complemented by modern medicine. The new career structure is a key support for attraction and retention of Aboriginal Health Practitioners.