LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 337

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Health, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

Access to Healthcare for Women in Prisons

1. In 2025–26, what were the median and average waiting times for women in custody to access:

    a. a primary healthcare practitioner

    b. a psychiatrist

    c. If these are not recorded from referral to appointment, how and in which system are referrals and appointments documented?

2. What processes govern women's access to primary healthcare practitioners and psychiatrists in custody, including referral pathways, clinical triage and assessment, practical access arrangements, and clinical prioritisation criteria?

3. What barriers has NT Health identified to ensure timely healthcare access for women in custody, including workforce shortages, practitioner availability, escort and security arrangements, infrastructure and clinical accommodation, lockdowns, prisoner movement restrictions and other operational constraints?

4. What specific actions is NT Health undertaking during 2026–27 to address barriers to healthcare access and improve the timeliness, quality and continuity of healthcare services for women in custody?

    a. What changes are being made to healthcare service delivery and clinical staffing arrangements?

    b. What progress has been made in developing and implementing revised Models of Care for women in custody?

    c. What arrangements are being established between NT Health and the Department of Corrections to monitor healthcare access, waiting times and continuity of care?

d. What performance measures and reporting mechanisms will NT Health implement to identify service gaps and monitor healthcare outcomes for women in custody?

e. When are these measures expected to be fully implemented?