

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Walker to the Minister for Health:

Alcohol and Other Drug Services

Can you please provide advice as to the reasons for the decline in completed closed treatment episodes for non-government provided alcohol and other drugs services and the decline in closed and completed closed treatment episodes for government provided services as outlined in the 2014/15 annual report?

Completed closed episodes in non-government treatment services

- The published number of 1,653 was not the final count for 2014-15. Updated and finalised actual numbers of completed closed episodes are 1,857 for 2014-15. Compared with the 1,847 closed episodes in 2013-2014 this is an increase in the number of closed episodes by 0.5%.

Closed episodes in government treatment services and completed closed episodes in government treatment services

- Completed closed episodes are a subset of closed episodes, so these two measures typically move in a similar direction and magnitude.
- Approximately 77% of the decline (total drop of 82 episodes) is due to a drop in closed episodes at Darwin Withdrawal Services, from 266 in 2013-2014 to 203 in 2014-2015.
- This is a drop of less than 10 per cent. A variance of less than 10 per cent annually is considered normal for Alcohol and Other Drugs services given moving monthly variations and the relatively small number of people involved, and the steady impact of preventative services and health promotion interacting with societal trends relating to drug misuse.