

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Walker to the Minister for Health:

RDH GP Referral to specialist

What is the average length of time for an individual to see a specialist following referral from a GP at Royal Darwin Hospital?

All patient referrals to the medical specialist outpatient clinics at Royal Darwin Hospital are assigned a priority category based on their clinical need and related psychological factors. Royal Darwin Hospital ensures patients are treated equitably within clinically appropriate timeframes. The length of time it takes for a patient to be seen is dependent on the severity of the condition, with three categories used:

Category One - Appointment desirable within 30 days

- Appointment within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to require increased complex care if delayed or have significant impact on quality of life.

Category Two- Appointment desirable within 90 days

- Appointment within 90 days desirable for a condition that is not likely to deteriorate quickly or require increased complex care if delayed.

Category Three - Appointment desirable within 365 days

- Desirable to receive appointment within 365 days for a condition that will not deteriorate quickly or require increased complex care if delayed.