

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

7th Assembly

22/01/1996

93. Department of Health Services Operations

Ms. HICKEY to MINISTER for HEALTH SERVICES

QUESTION

1. What was the total cost to the Department of Health Services as a result of changing its title from the Department of Health and Community Services.
2. Were Department of Health Services' officers instructed to dispose of Department of Health and Community Services stationery items; if so, were records kept of the cost of this disposal.
3. Does the Northern Territory Government intend to introduce a new uniform policy within the Department of Health Services; if so, will individual employees of that Department be required to contribute to costs.
4. Does the Northern Territory Government, or the Department of Health Services, intend to combine the East Arnhem District with either the Darwin Rural or the Katherine Districts.
5. Does the Department of Health Services plan to change the management structure of the Gove District Hospital.
6. Is the Department of Health Services currently conducting surveys among the itinerant population in Darwin, or other communities; if so, what are the details of those surveys.
7. How many doctors:
 - (a) are employed by the Katherine District Hospital; and
 - (b) were available for full-time duty at Katherine District Hospital during the period 22 December 1995 to 15 January 1996.
8. What were the numbers of Department of Health Services employees:
 - (a) who resigned from the Department during the 1995 calendar year; and
 - (b) which positions did they occupy.

ANSWER

Answered on 11/09/96

1. \$3,690.
2. No. Existing stationery was used until depleted or re-used for other purposes within the Agency.
3. Only the policy in relation to nurses uniforms is under review. The current policy is based on the requirements of the *Nurses (Northern Territory Public Service) Award 1985*. Under the current arrangements, uniforms are supplied free by the Agency to employed nurses.

Following a survey of all nurses employed by the Agency, a majority has indicated they would prefer the option of receiving the current uniforms and/or purchasing selected co-ordinated items from an approved corporate wardrobe. Any purchases would qualify as tax deductions. While a new corporate wardrobe is currently under consideration, no decision has been made regarding its implementation.

4. East Arnhem, Darwin Rural and Katherine Districts form part of the management structure for the delivery of health services by Territory Health Services (THS). These structures and their inter-relationships are under continuous review as THS determines what is required to achieve its objectives of improving the health of Territorians.
5. The management structure of the Gove District Hospital is currently integrated with the management of the East Arnhem District Health Service. Management positions will be reviewed as they fall vacant and as THS determines what is required for the delivery of its services to the community.
6. No.
7. (a) 7 - (as at 15 February 1996).

(b) The numbers vary as follow: -

.	22 December 1995	5
.	29 December 1995	3
.	5 January 1996	4
.	12 January 1996	4
.	19 January 1996	4

8. There were a total of 1911 resignations, comprising: -

Administrative	(AO1-EC06)	419
Physical	(PH1-PH8)	262
Professional	(P1-P4)	152
Nurses	(Ens and RN1-RN5.4)	821
Technical	(T1-T6)	52

Dentists		9
Aboriginal Health Workers	(AHW1-AHW5)	49
Medical Officers		<u>147</u>
		1911