

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Health:

Dundee Volunteer First Aid Service

- 1. Please advise what options have been explored for the delivery of primary health needs for Dundee residents?**

Response:

Top End Health Service Primary Health Care has been in regular discussions with the Northern Territory Primary Health Network since November 2016 to undertake a Dundee Region Health Needs Analysis regarding the health needs of residents.

Northern Territory Primary Health Network has been working with Top End Health Service to undertake a needs analysis at Wagait Beach and once this has been completed, it is planned to use a similar approach at Dundee Beach.

A primary task of the Northern Territory Primary Health Network is to assess gaps in access to primary care services for their population.

- 2. With the withdrawal of the Dundee Progress Association from the Funding Agreement for the provision of the Dundee Volunteer First Aid Service, please advise what alternative arrangements have been made for medical care of the 950 permanent residents that currently live in Dundee and the estimated 750 additional people who visit Dundee during weekends?**

Response:

In the event of an emergency, Dundee residents and visitors can call 000 or Royal Darwin Hospital on 8922 8888. Rural Medical Practitioners in Top End Health Service provide medical advice and arrange an evacuation with St John Ambulance or Careflight if required.

For non-urgent medical assistance, access to a General Practitioner service is available six days per week at the Arafura Medical Clinic in Berry Springs which is approximately 40 minutes from Dundee. Berry Springs shopping village also has a pharmacy to ensure that all clients reviewed at the practice have access to medications and medical supplies.

Additional medical facilities are located at Howard Springs, Coolalinga, Humpty Doo and Palmerston. These medical centres also have pharmacies located within walking distance of the General Practices.

Non-urgent medical assistance can also be accessed by phoning HealthDirect, a 24/7 national expert health call centre service, on 1800 022 222 or by visiting <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/> for information and advice.

The Dundee Progress Association has been asked by Top End Health Service to notify community members in writing of the decision to cease the First Aid Service from 1 July 2017, including provision of contact details for routine and emergency medical assistance.

- 3. With the withdrawal of the Dundee Progress Association from the Funding Agreement for the provision of the Dundee Volunteer First Aid Service, there are a significant number of items associated with the First Aid Post which the community has purchased through fundraising, including two ambulances. Please advise whether the Northern Territory Government has any intention of making an offer to purchase any of this equipment and if so, what equipment is intended to be purchased and will it be at market value?**

Response:

The Dundee Progress Association has offered to sell the vehicles (two ambulances) and equipment to the Top End Health Service. This option will be investigated. However, as the equipment and vehicles are dated it is likely they will not meet Departmental standards.