

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Hearing Health Information Management System (HHIMS) -Replacement

1. What is the Government replacing the HHIMS system with?

When discontinued, HIMMS was a design concept and was aiming to integrate hearing information systems between departments and services. It did not have any 'live' functions.

Scoping of hearing information functions within Acacia is being considered, and it is anticipated much of the functionality of the HIMMS design will be subsumed into Acacia.

2. Will the new system have the same level of function as HHIMS?

In determining the design of Acacia the level of support for hearing health and hearing data will be considered alongside the range of information systems that will interface with the system.

3. Does the new system include information from Aboriginal Controlled Health services?

Acacia will provide a portal for non-government organisations, such as Aboriginal Controlled Health Services to read client information, with the appropriate consent in regard to client confidentiality. Access for staff in other NT Government agencies such as Territory Families or Department of Education is under consideration. .

4. How will the replacement system increase support to Aboriginal children in remote communities?

In determining the design of Acacia, the level of support for hearing health and hearing data will be considered. The NT Government has committed \$4.8 million over four years to increase access to hearing health services for Aboriginal children in remote communities.

5. Just as HHIMS was to be linked with a program called 'iHearing', will the replacement system have an ancillary system with the Education Department to ensure teachers have real time information on the hearing health of students in their classrooms?

In determining the design of Acacia, the range of information systems that will interface with the system, including expansion capacity to support future changes, will be considered.