

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Mental Health Services and Resources

1. Are there any mental health services in the Northern Territory which are still waiting for a five year funding agreement from the NTG? If so, who are they and why haven't they received their agreement yet?
2. The Productivity Commission reports that the NT had the highest number of mental health admissions per percentage of population in Australia while the AIHW data shows that the NT is among the lowest number of funded mental health beds in Australia. What are you doing to address the problem and at what cost?
3. What work is being done and resources allocated for the improvement of mental health services in the Northern Territory?
4. According to the Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition there is no bulk billing GP in Katherine and no private GP at all in Tennant Creek. What are you doing to try to attract these services to Katherine and Tennant Creek?
5. Last year we asked about more mental health facilities in the NT and you said yourself and the assistant minister had looked at facilities interstate and "it is something we have been looking at" (p79, Hansard, 14/6/18). Has there been any progress in this regard? Any plans to provide additional mental health facilities at all in the NT?
6. What has happened with the forensic mental health review? Has it been released? Who did it and how much did it cost? Has the government accepted it and developed an implementation timeframe?

7. Going by public figures (AR, p58) the total number of people accessing mental health services exceeded the budgeted target as a result of organisations delivering services to a greater number of clients. Clearly and sadly there is an increasing need for mental health services in the Northern Territory - why is there only a small increase in the Budget for mental health?