

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Harm Reduction interim report response

1. Do you intend to expand needle and syringe programs in the Northern Territory? If so, at what cost? (issue identified in interim report of Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Addictive Behaviours)
2. What are you doing to introduce better coordination between treatment agencies? (issue identified in interim report of Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Addictive Behaviours)
3. Is this the type of information sharing which may, in some part, be addressed through the new Core Clinical Systems Renewal Program?

RESPONSE

1. Expansion of pharmacy outlet needle and syringe exchange sites continues as/when potential sites are identified, at no cost to the NT Government.

A pilot peer-led mobile outreach program to target people who inject drugs not utilising fixed site networks, is continuing to be explored with NT Aids and Hepatitis Council.

2. An Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Coordination Group, comprising government and non-government representatives from across the sector, has been established to oversee the development of an AOD Treatment Services Plan. This group will address communication, workforce and service models.
3. The capture of this type of information is not within scope of the Core Clinical Systems Renewal Program.