

**Response to Written Question No 106 – Alcohol Rehabilitation Media Statement**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

**Mr Gunner to the Minister for Alcohol Rehabilitation:**

1. In relation to the media release from the Minister for Alcohol Rehabilitation and Minister for Health dated 1 July 2013:
  - a. *How many of the 150 treatment beds are currently available?*
    - There are 128 beds available. It was found that the real capacity of Darwin Alcohol Assessment and Treatment Service located in the Medi-hotel was lower than forecast when the service was established. Moving to the upgraded facility at Berrimah and additional capacity in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs will see the number of beds available increase.
  - b. *What proportion of the \$45 million invested in Alcohol Mandatory Treatment was spent January-June 2013 and July-December 2013?*
    - Department of Health reports on financial matters through its annual report and the Budget process.
  - c. *How many people have absconded each month from each mandatory rehabilitation facility since 1 July 2013?*
    - To ensure patient confidentiality and to help them through what is a rough journey, the Department does not list the number of people who abscond. The Department does list the number of *incidents*, and these are listed quarterly on the Department of Health website.
  - d. *Are any security upgrades planned for any mandatory rehabilitation facility, given the number of absconders?*
    - No
  - e. *Please detail any other upgrades or modifications that have occurred at any of these facilities to allow the operation of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act?*
    - DAATS - works have occurred to the perimeter fence, lighting, landscaping, furnishings, and enhancement of treatment rooms, provision of enclosed veranda on women's accommodation area, additional air conditioning, enhancement of client residential rooms. Some works were carried out to rectify issues existing prior to AMT occupation of the facility, under defects liability period, including works to bathrooms and flooring.
    - CAAAPU – construction works to increase bed capacity in order to accept AMT clients.

- f. *How many people have been assessed as needing treatment but have not yet commenced treatment, and how long do they wait?*
- There is no waiting for clients who are referred for treatment. If an assessment is available then the person is transferred from protective custody to the assessment service. All clients ordered by the tribunal have gone to either residential or community treatment.
- g. *How many people have commenced treatment on more than one occasion?*
- See answer to c
- h. *How many people have referred to assessment on multiple occasions but not been referred to treatment?*
- See answer to c.
- i. *How many staff have been employed at assessment and treatment centres, either as full time, part time, casual or contract since the scheme commenced?*
- The Department of Health reports on its workforce through its Annual Report and through data collected by OCPE.
- j. *How many staff were employed at assessment and treatment centres, either as full time, part time, or casual contract on 1 March 2014?*
- See i.
- k. *At any time since the commencement of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act, have the secure care facilities in Alice Springs been fully occupied?*
- The secure care facility in Alice Springs is operated by the Office of Disability. The Alice Springs Alcohol Assessment Service (ASAAS) operates in one half of the building but is completely separate from the secure care facility. The secure care facility has maintained capacity to receive appropriate clients during the course of operation of the AMT Act.
- l. *How many people, either adults or juveniles, have not been able to access secure care during the operation of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act?*
- The secure care facility in Alice Springs is operated by the Office of Disability. The secure care facility has maintained capacity to receive appropriate clients during the course of operation of the AMT Act.