



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 120

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Health, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

Mental health

1. Aside from the new 25 bed facility, are any other services getting new additional funding?

The Northern Territory Government is providing new funding to:

- Perinatal Mental Health Intensive Care and Coordination Service funded from 2025-2029.
- Establish the NT Mental Health Lived Experience Collaborative Network, with the NT Primary Health Network (NT PHN).

Under the bilateral schedule for mental health and suicide prevention, the Northern Territory Government is co-funding the following, with the Commonwealth Government:

- Two new Medicare Mental Health (MMH) services in Katherine and Alice Springs.
- The new MMH Kids Service in Alice Springs, to be delivered by Central Australian Aboriginal Congress.
- Enhanced headspace services to increase access to youth mental health services.

2. Given the mental health budget increase has been primarily allocated to the new mental health facility at RDH, how is the CLP Government able to ensure support for people who need mental health care and support not living in the greater Darwin region?

Mental health services are provided in all regions of the Northern Territory, and additional clinical supports are facilitated by specialist outreach and telehealth.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan for Integration and Co-Investment 2024-2029 provides strategic and funding direction for the next five years to strengthen mental health services in the Northern Territory. This was jointly developed with the NT PHN, the National Indigenous Australians Agency and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory.

3. Please outline the budget commitment to expanding community health services outside of Darwin and into remote parts of the Territory where it is needed?

The Northern Territory Government has committed \$135 million for mental health services across the Northern Territory, including \$16.5 million to operate the new mental health ward at Royal Darwin Hospital, providing improved services for patients and reducing bed-block in the emergency department.