



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No.176

## WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Young to Minister for Health, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

### Workforce data

1. How many Aboriginal Health Practitioner positions are there as at 30/09/2025? Could the Minister please provide the data disaggregated by region and clinic?
2. How many Aboriginal Health Practitioner positions are currently vacant as at 30/09/2025? Could the Minister please provide the data disaggregated by region and clinic?

### Answer to Question 1 and 2

As of 30 September 2025, there are 131 Aboriginal Health Practitioner (AHP) positions across NT Health, of which 59 positions are vacant. A breakdown of positions by region is provided below:

Region	Occupied	Vacant
Barkly	3	4
Big Rivers	8	6
Central Australia	19	25
East Arnhem	6	4
Top End	36	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>59</b>

The response has not been broken down by clinic, as the task is too administratively onerous and to do so would result in undue diversion of resources from service delivery.

### **3. What is the Government doing to recruit and retain more Aboriginal Health Practitioners across the Territory?**

NT Health has implemented a robust recruitment and retention program for AHPs across the Territory, which includes but is not limited to:

- Registered Training Organisation training programs which are aligned with the AHP model, including improved support for clinical placements.
- Introduction of dual-banding and clear career progression pathways to strengthen recruitment and retention of AHPs.
- Development of an AHP Workforce Framework/Strategic Plan to guide workforce growth, professional development and cultural safety actions.
- Increased reporting and monitoring on the percentage of Aboriginal employment to strengthen accountability and align with NT and Commonwealth government commitments.
- Implementation of a cultural security, safety and responsiveness initiative to improve workplace culture for Aboriginal employees to complement the NT Health Aboriginal Cultural Security Policy.

### **4. How many psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapist positions are there within the specialist assessment team within Holtze Youth Justice Centre as at 31/10/2025?**

#### **i. How many of those positions are vacant?**

As of 31 October 2025, the Department of Corrections have five allied health positions within the Specialist Assessment and Treatment Team located within Holtze Youth Detention Centre. At the time of reporting, 3 positions were vacant, with recruitment underway. Currently, 2 of the 5 positions are psychologists.

**5. How many allied health positions are there to service children and young people detained in Holtze Youth Justice Centre?**

**i. How many of these positions are vacant as at 30/10/2025?**

As of 31 October 2025, NT Health have one allied health position within the Holtze Youth Justice Centre. At the time of reporting, the position was vacant.

**6. What is the approximate wait time for a child or young person in Holtze Youth Justice Centre to see a health practitioner, excluding children and young people managed through at-risk procedures? Could the data be disaggregated by health category (for example GP/general medical, allied health, mental health)**

Clients are triaged according to the urgency of their condition for general medical reviews. The approximate wait time for a client in Holtze Youth Justice Centre to see a health practitioner, excluding children and young people managed through at-risk procedures, by health category is as below:

<b>Health category</b>	<b>Wait time</b>
GP	1-2 Days
General Medicine	1-4days *recalls
Allied Health	Up to 3 months (Varies with discipline)
Mental Health	1-2 days

**7. What is the Departments long term plan for managing health services at Holtze Youth Justice Centre? Is the Department planning to continue providing services or is there a plan to contract services out?**

NT Health's intends to engage an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service to deliver services.

**8. How is the Department ensuring services are culturally appropriate and safe given Danila Dilba Health Service no longer operates within Holtze Youth Justice Centre?**

NT Health ensures services are culturally appropriate and safe through the NT Health Aboriginal Cultural Security Policy, which strengthens Aboriginal Territorians' access to and benefits of health services by ensuring that the health system recognises the centrality of culture in delivering successful health outcomes.