

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

#### Medical Misdiagnosis

1. How many medical misdiagnosis complaints have there been in the reporting period?

Health Service	Number of medical misdiagnosis complaints 1 July 2018 – 31 March 2019
Central Australia Health Service	1
Top End Health Service	3

2. How many were substantiated and what was the cost of any associated payouts?

#### Central Australia Health Service

Open disclosure was undertaken with the patient and family, an apology was provided and the patient was reassured regarding access to ongoing medical treatment requirements.

#### Top End Health Service

All three were substantiated. No payouts were made.

3. Have any policy or operational changes been made as a result of a medical misdiagnosis case? If so, what were they?

#### Central Australia Health Service

Yes, changes have occurred with the medical imaging procedures after hours.

### Top End Health Service

Two of the three complaints were reviewed and no policy or operational changes were identified. The cases were de-identified and used to raise awareness among staff of unusual or rare conditions and the diagnostic process.

The third one is still under review for possible system changes.