

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

**Remote Health Care**

**1. Which Agency or organisation has oversight of remote community health organisations?**

As remote community health organisations are independent organisations, no single agency has oversight.

The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) administers the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and supports and regulates registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations (including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations) which includes ensuring compliance with the law.

**2. What role does the NT Government have in ensuring that all Territorians have equal access to quality health services?**

The Northern Territory Government role in ensuring that all Territorians have equal access to quality health services is outlined in the *Health Service Act 2021 (NT)* and the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) 2020-2025 (Cth).

The provision of universal healthcare for all Australians is a shared priority for the Commonwealth, and the Northern Territory Government. As stipulated in the NHRA, Territory Government (through the Department of Health) is required to ensure 'arrangements are in place to ensure equitable access to such services (health and emergency services) for all eligible persons, regardless of their geographic location'.

NT are required to deliver health services and health support services to meet the needs of the community. Specific responsibilities are outlined in annual Service Plan for the five health service regions.

Section 4 (d) of the Health Service Act 2021 includes the following principle:

a commitment to achieving health equity for Aboriginal people, including by:

- (i) working with Aboriginal communities to design approaches tailored to their needs, recognising and enabling Aboriginal leadership and local decision-making processes; and

- (ii) working with Aboriginal people to achieve cultural security in the health system by co-developing and co-delivering culturally safe and secure health services.

NT Health has developed two key strategic documents which support health services to work in line with this principle; the NT Aboriginal Health Plan (2021-2031) and the NT Health Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework (2018-2028).