



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 278

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Royal Darwin Hospital Morgue

The 2024–25 Budget allocated \$22.6 million to upgrade the forensic pathology, mortuary and bereavement facility. In the answer to Written Question No. 112 of the 15th Assembly (answered 14 October 2025), the Government advised that construction funding had been withdrawn through the Budget 2025 reprioritisation, that the design had reached 95 per cent, and that there was no new timeline for the project.

1. The 2026–27 Budget allocates \$3 million to the Royal Darwin Hospital morgue — \$2 million for morgue upgrades and \$1 million for design of a forensic morgue and bereavement centre. What does that allocation restore of the withdrawn \$22.6 million project, and does the design work use, or discard, the design previously reported as 95 per cent complete?
 - a. What specific capacity failures or structural deficiencies were identified as requiring those urgent works?
 - b. On what date is construction expected to commence?
 - c. If a commencement date has not been set, what decision or approval is the works program waiting on?
2. Has the morgue exceeded its designed storage capacity in the five years to 2025–26?
 - a. If so, how many times?
 - b. If occupancy against designed capacity is not recorded, in which system is mortuary occupancy recorded, and in what format?
3. What is the current storage capacity, and what is projected future demand?

4. Has an engineering or safety assessment identified deficiencies?
 - a. If so, what were the findings?
5. Is the \$1 million allocated to design of a forensic morgue and bereavement centre a new design, or the continuation of the design previously reported as 95 per cent complete? If it is a new design, what is the cost to date of the earlier design work, and has that expenditure been written off?
 - a. What specifically will be completed in 2026–27 under each of the two allocations?
6. What is the estimated total cost of the full morgue upgrade, and is construction funding included in the forward estimates?
 - a. When will the construction funding withdrawn in the Budget 2025 reprioritisation be restored to the forward estimates?