

Estimates Committee 2012
Questions Taken On Notice

(12/06/2012 to 21/06/2012)

Date: 19/06/2012

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Business class airfares funded by DOH

From: Mr Gerry Wood to Hon Kon Vatskalis
Department of Health

6-1

Question: Minister, could you give us the number of official business class interstate airfares that were purely funded by the Department of Health?

Answer:

Answered On: 21/06/2012

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.1

The number of official business class interstate airfares that were purely funded by the Department of Health.

ANSWER

Thirty-one (31) official Business Class airfares.

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.4

Provide a breakdown of what the \$9 million variation is for 2012/13 in the Top End Aero Medical Retrievals Services budget

ANSWER

The \$9 million variation for 2012/13 Top End Aero Medical Retrievals Services Budget is for the estimated increased expenditure in the following categories.

Low acuity patient travel service	\$2.8 million
Full year contract costs	\$4.6 million
Provision for estimated additional flying hours	\$1.6 million

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.5

What cost recovery procedures are in place with regard to the lack of operation of the MRI at Royal Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

The MRI is owned and operated by a contractor to the Northern Territory Government, Northern Territory Medical Imaging (NTMI). The contract with NTMI does not include cost recovery associated with the MRI being unavailable.

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.6

Provide total cost from the result of faulty equipment and the cost of maintenance of equipment in Territory Hospitals

ANSWER

Central Australia Hospital Network: Total costs: \$1.401 million

Alice Springs Hospital

- Repair due to breakdown of equipment \$738,000
- Equipment maintenance cost \$486,000

Tennant Creek Hospital

- Repair and Maintenance cost \$177,000
(unable to break down figure)

Top End Hospital Network: Total costs YTD to March 2012: \$1.363 million

Royal Darwin Hospital

- Repair due to breakdown of equipment \$388,000
- Equipment maintenance cost \$828,000

Gove District Hospital

- Repair due to breakdown of equipment \$19,000
- Equipment maintenance cost \$43,000

Katherine Hospital

- Repair due to breakdown of equipment \$47,000
- Equipment maintenance cost \$38,000

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.8

What was the actual amount spent on the PATS scheme for the last 5 years?

ANSWER

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Total Expenditure	8,492,370	8,799,944	10,484,832	11,924,766	13,853,554

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.9

How much of this has been for interstate travel and how much has been for intrastate travel?

ANSWER

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
INTRA TERRITORY	5,403,022	5,542,635	6,649,712	7,495,905	8,951,047
INTERSTATE	3,089,348	3,257,309	3,835,120	4,428,862	4,902,506
TOTAL \$	8,492,370	8,799,944	10,484,832	11,924,766	13,853,554

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.10

Can this be broken down according to how much was spent on flights, taxi fares and accommodation – for the last 12 months?

ANSWER

Cost of PATS travel for intra and interstate by cost classification for the period 1 July – 31 March 2012

Cost of PATS travel 1/7-31/03/12

Description	Total
accommodation	2,067,007
charters	1,833,832
fares	7,029,902
incidentals	3,920
vehicle allowance	190,952
Grand Total	11,125,613

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.11

Can you provide a breakdown of the number of interstate trips (PATS) that have been paid according to clinical program?

ANSWER

SPECIALTY	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY	6	4	2	3	12	5
ALLERGY	5	10	17	8	7	3
ANAESTHETICS	9	17	28	45	38	56
AUDIOLOGY		1			1	2
BREAST CLINIC	1	3	8	15	20	40
BURNS	1			2	3	
CARDIOLOGY	328	248	196	147	203	236
CARDIO-THORACIC SURGERY	140	148	101	136	141	132
CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY	33	31	23	21	18	14
CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY	2	2	5	2	1	
CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHY	9	5	15	23	11	15
DERMATOLOGY	20	27	14	24	15	20
EAR NOSE THROAT	95	76	128	137	132	73
ENDOCRINOLOGY	13	15	11	12	11	21
GASTROENTEROLOGY	31	31	52	54	67	74
GENERAL MEDICINE	24	35	26	25	32	59
GENERAL SURGERY	83	126	167	147	169	263
GENETICS	5	13	7	1	2	5
GYNAECOLOGY	59	61	43	57	51	115
HYPERBARIC MEDICINE	1				1	1
INFECTIOUS DISEASES		2	1	5	1	6
INTENSIVE CARE	1		1			
IN-VITRO FERTILISATION	3	10	9	18	16	21
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY	47	46	39	44	56	43
NEONATALOLOGY	1		4	2		2
NEPHROLOGY (RENAL)	10	12	12	22	11	10
NEUROLOGY	26	45	40	56	51	66
NEUROSURGERY	92	104	125	131	127	161
NUCLEAR MEDICINE	29	45	59	73	93	154
OBSTETRICS	34	25	36	30	29	51
OPHTHALMOLOGY	144	178	154	142	146	130
ORAL SURGERY / DENTAL	22	24	22	18	11	20
ORTHOPAEDIC	84	122	134	170	159	187
OTHER	212	146	192	236	314	181
PAEDIATRIC	57	72	65	78	81	91

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

PAEDIATRIC SURGERY	25	15	15	42	11	25
PAIN	4	6	7	7	9	11
PATHOLOGY	1				1	1
PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURG	29	36	39	39	44	62
PSYCHIATRY	5	8	7	8	6	10
RADIOLOGY	49	83	141	128	201	256
RADIOTHERAPY / ONCOLOGY	186	220	230	269	233	102
REHABILITATION MEDICINE	3	9	10	7	7	10
RHEUMATOLOGY	9	2	6	5	10	11
SPINAL INJURIES	8	5	11	14	5	16
SPORTS MEDICINE				1	3	1
THORACIC MEDICINE	35	25	23	33	16	11
TRANSPLANT SURGERY	10	4	15	13	15	19
UROLOGY	51	99	110	99	116	122
VASCULAR SURGERY	19	28	25	19	27	19
TOTAL	2061	2224	2375	2568	2734	2933

The number of specialties accessed exceeds the number of interstate PATS requests because there may be more than one specialty accessed in one patient journey.

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.12

For the period 1 June 2011 to 31 March 2012, how many emergency caesarean sections began as low risk labour?

ANSWER

Royal Darwin Hospital does not collect data on which of the patients requiring emergency caesarean sections began their labour as low risk.

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.14

Are you satisfied with the quality of acquittals in relation to Territory expenditure to the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress? Do you intend to investigate the Territory exposure further in relation to issues surrounding Central Australian Aboriginal Congress? What is the quality of the acquittal process, with a full description in relation to the Territory Government's granting of monies to Central Australian Aboriginal Congress?

ANSWER

I am advised by the Department of Health that the acquittals by Central Australian Aboriginal Congress are as required pursuant to the specific service level agreements.

The Department of Health has conducted an initial review of acquittal compliance and found no areas of concern.

The Department of Health is in contact with the Commonwealth Government in relation to its audit outcomes and will take appropriate action should any issues of concern related to NTG funding and acquittal be identified.

I have also requested that the Department further review all of its service level agreements with Congress, performance reports and acquittals for the current and last financial year and provide me with a report.

The Department of Health's acquittal process requires funded agencies to provide 6 monthly performance and financial reports that address the funded outputs and annual Audited Financial Statements. Should these reporting requirements identify any issues with the level of performance or financial acquittal, the service agreements allow for withholding of payments until the Department is satisfied that the reports and performance are adequate as well as the ability to seek funding be repaid.

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.15

How many calls has the NT-wide, 24-hour Mental Health Triage and Response Service taken in 2011-12?

ANSWER

The number of contacts by NTCATT from 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 was 4719 contacts for 2492 people. This figure includes both telephone calls and face to face contact.

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.16

How much is it costing to house, treat and care for the male client who resides part-time if not full-time at a McMinns Lagoon property, which involves two correctional officers, rental of the property, insurance on the property and the cost of carers for the male client?

ANSWER

The rent on the property at McMinns Lagoon is approximately \$35 000 per annum.

Two support workers were provided to support the client at the property for three to four hours, twice a week. The cost per week for the carers is approximately \$4370.

The insurance is covered by the landlord because the Department of Health is a tenant. There is no insurance on contents because the Northern Territory Government self insures.

The question on the cost of the correctional officers will need to be referred to the Department of Justice.

Department of Health – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.17

On how many occasions were test results received from Darwin beaches that were at or above a level that required public notification and follow up testing?

ANSWER

Four (4)

Department of Children and Families – Estimates 2012

QUESTION ON NOTICE 6.18

Provide details of how many staff are above the AO6 level within the Department.

Total number of additional headcount and FTE from 2011 and 2012 at the AO6 equivalent and above.

Answer

As at 6 June 2012, a headcount of 460 staff are currently employed within DCF at the AO6 equivalent and above.

Total number of additional headcount and FTE from 2011 and 2012 at the AO6 equivalent and above is an increase of 121 headcount and an FTE increase of 120.44, as at 6 June 2012.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2012

Questions Taken on Notice

Date: 19 June 2012 **Output:**
From: The Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA **To:** Kezia Purick, Member for Goyder
Department: Resources

Number: 6-24

Question: Are there any special conditions attached to the mining management plan and authorisation and what are they, including hours of operation, noise monitoring, dust monitoring and any community consultation?

Answer:

Further to the answer given by Mr Alister Trier, Executive Director Minerals and Energy, the conditions on the Authorisation are as follows:

- (a) Mining is not to extend below 15 metres from the natural land surface, unless an amended Mining Management Plan (MMP) has been submitted and written approval has been given by the Department of Resources (DoR).
- (b) Material extracted is not to exceed 400 000 tonnes, unless an amended MMP has been submitted and written approval has been given by DoR.
- (c) Any groundwater intercepted by the mining activities is to be retained on site in suitable water detention ponds or tanks unless an amended MMP has been submitted and written approval has been given by DoR.
- (d) Any groundwater intercepted is to be tested at intervals of not more than one month, for contaminants and turbidity and the results are to be reported to DoR on a monthly basis.
- (e) During the period from the date of the Authorisation to 21 June 2012 (and at any other time during the term of this Authorisation as directed by the Director Mining Environmental Compliance), an independent study of noise levels is to be conducted at the cost of D.A.C. Enterprises Pty Ltd, specifically to identify the impact of the mining activities on the noise levels occurring along the distant side of Wallaby-Holtze Road, and to determine (i) background noise levels, (ii) maximum noise levels generated by mining activities, and (iii) the most appropriate methods to reduce the impact on the local environment of noise generated by mining activities. An independent consultant's report is to be provided to the Director Mining Environmental Compliance on or before 1500 hours Friday 22 June 2012, and where recommendations are made by the independent consultant about any procedures or methods to reduce the impact on the local environment of any noise generated by mining activities, such report must be incorporated into an amended MMP and a system, including

procedures, consistent with those recommendations must be implemented to reduce the impact of noise on the local environment.

- (f) Consent of the Power Water Corporation (PWC) is to be obtained as soon as practicable after the date of the Authorisation, to carry out any activities on the mining site in proximity to power services, owned or operated by PWC located within the mining site or along any access route. The consent of PWC must specifically include consent for the passing of vehicles in proximity to power services.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2012

Questions Taken on Notice

Date: 19 June 2012

Output:

From: The Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA **To:** Kezia Purick, Member for Goyder

Department: Resources

Number: 6-25

Question: What is the size of the financial security being held by government against the 13 Mile Taylor Road extractive project?

Answer:

The security currently held by the Department of Resources for Mineral Authority 145 totals \$28 145.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2012

Questions Taken on Notice

Date: 19 June 2012 **Output:**
From: The Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA **To:** Kezia Purick, Member for Goyder
Department: Resources

Number: 6-26

Question: What are the requirements in regard to an extractive operation under the Mining Management Act having signs indicating that it is a mining project?

Answer:

The *Mining Management Act* does not contain specific requirements regarding use of signage at mine sites. However, following a recent site inspection, the Department of Resources (DoR) will be sending a letter to the operator advising them that Taylor Road is a public road and that they should take steps to delineate their operation from a public access road.

DoR will also suggest that erecting signage informing the public of an operating mine would be advisable under the circumstances.