

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Measuring improvements in service delivery and wellness in communities

1. What indicators have been established to “monitor and measure improvements in (mental health) service delivery and wellness” in the Northern Territory?
2. What funding, if any has been allocated to establish such indicators?
3. How is the government tracking the effectiveness of its mental health initiatives?
4. What progress has been made in reducing the rate of suicide in our community?
5. What improvements have been made to mental health services?

1. What indicators have been established to “monitor and measure improvements in (mental health) service delivery and wellness” in the Northern Territory?

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the National Mental Health Commission report regularly, at a national and jurisdictional-level (including the NT) on mental health service indicators. The data, metrics and analytics used in these reports are established and measured over a number of years.

Top End and Central Australia Health Services have established quality assurance and clinical governance processes that measure the performance of its mental health services.

NT statutory oversight bodies, including the Community Visitor Program (CVP) and the Health and Community Services Complaints Commission (HCSCC), also oversee and monitor mental health service delivery in the NT. Annual reports are published on the statutory oversight bodies' websites.

2. What funding, if any has been allocated to establish such indicators?

Monitoring and reporting of mental health services is part of existing business processes and resources.

3. How is the government tracking the effectiveness of its mental health initiatives?

The NT Department of Health tracks its mental health initiatives through ongoing reporting and performance management, including to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and National Mental Health Commission.

In addition, the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee (NTSPCC) oversee and monitor the *Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework 2018-2023* and *Implementation Plan*.

4. What progress has been made in reducing the rate of suicide in our community?

The Northern Territory Government is working towards its election commitment to halve suicide rates by 2027. The Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Framework 2018-2023 is providing a mechanism to achieve this commitment by providing a comprehensive approach to the design, ongoing implementation and evaluation of suicide prevention efforts across the NT.

The National Coronial Information System collates jurisdictional information submitted by coroners on deaths, including alleged suicides, and publishes this information with a two-year lag.

5. What improvements have been made to mental health services?

Mental health services, including non-government organisations engaged by the NT Government, are required to undertake regular audits against national standards.

As noted above, quality assurance and clinical governance processes are well established within Top End and Central Australia Health Services, and statutory oversight bodies also oversee and monitor mental health service delivery in the NT.