

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

Community Mental Health

In January this year, Federal Minister Greg Hunt made an announcement that the Federal Government will provide \$1.45 Billion over 3 years for community mental health services across Australia.

1. How will any Northern Territory portion of this funding be allocated to remote communities? In particular what will this look like in East Arnhem Land communities?

The Northern Territory component of the Commonwealth investment in community mental health services is estimated to be approximately \$9.2 million for the next three years. Funding will be allocated by the Australian Government Department of Health to the Northern Territory Primary Health Network (NTPHN) to commission the following programs, each with their own eligibility criteria:

- Transition Support Program (TSP) - approximately \$6.8 million has been allocated in 2019-20 to support clients in the three previous Australian Government funded programs (Partners in Recovery/Personal Helpers and Mentors/and Day to Day Living) who have not yet tested their eligibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Continuity of Support (COS) - approximately \$1.5 million will be allocated in 2019-20 for those in the Partners in Recovery and Personal Helpers and Mentors prior programs that have tested eligibility for NDIS but did not meet eligibility criteria.
- National Psychosocial Support (NPS) approximately \$200 000 over three years for those that were not in the three prior programs and are not eligible for NDIS but need short term psychosocial support.

Miwatj was the only East Arnhem provider to have one of the prior programs and is therefore the only funded East Arnhem provider to have the psychosocial programs. NTPHN has not yet determined the allocation of funding to this region.

NTPHN will continue to have the flexibility to decide where the funding should go based on assessment of community needs.

The NT Department of Health will not receive the funding, or be involved in decisions on allocations across the Territory.