

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Sobering Up Shelters review and Demand Study for Alcohol Treatment Services

- 1. What is the status of the implementation of the Sobering Up Shelter (SUS) review recommendations?**

All 10 recommendations from the Review have been implemented with four recommendations now completed (recommendations 2, 5, 9 and 10).

Actions arising from four recommendations are implemented and ongoing, which have the key focus on quarterly regional stakeholder meetings to plan service improvements and linkages (recommendations 1, 3, 6 and 7).

The remaining two recommendations are in progress (recommendations 4 and 8).

- 2. How do the outcomes of the Demand Study for Alcohol Treatment Services in the NT affect the outcomes of the Review of the SUSs?**

The Demand Study findings are consistent with what had been recommended from the Review of Sobering Up Shelters, and the important role those services can play as an entry point into alcohol and other drugs treatment.

3. You have budgeted \$9.18 million towards "assessment, withdrawal and specialised alcohol treatment services..." - how much of that funding will go towards SUS? How will it be allocated out and to whom?

The budget for Sobering Up Shelter services in 2019/20 Financial Year is:

Location	Organisation	\$
Tennant Creek	Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group Aboriginal Corporation	833,017.00
Alice Springs	DASA	964,615.00
Nhulunbuy	East Arnhem Regional Council	396,801.00
Katherine	Mission Australia	630,816.00
Darwin	Mission Australia	1,350,265.00

4. How much did the Demand Study cost?

Menzies School of Health Research received \$520 000.

5. The Demand Study says between 6,400 and 7,997 individuals receive treatment in the NT in any one year for alcohol-related problems. (p31, Demand Study). It also says that the number of episodes of care per person per year ranges from 5.3 episodes to 6.7 episodes per year. What explanation do you have regarding the repeated number of episodes?

The Demand Study examined all types of treatment episodes, from counselling to residential programs. Most people will utilise a combination of interventions to get the help they need as supported by the body of evidence.

6. The Demand Study said residential rehabilitation was perceived to be the preferred treatment option for those with severe alcohol problems but the financial burden of both treatment and transport costs are a barrier for accessing RRS (p59). As part of the development of an Alcohol Treatment Services Plan in the NT will you consider reintroducing a form of compulsory alcohol treatment?

No. Compulsory alcohol treatment will not address the barriers identified above and is not supported as effective by the evidence.