

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro for the Minister for Health:

Staffing at Remote Health Clinics

For the timeframe 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019:

- 1. How many claims of workplace abuse have been lodged in the Department of Health by medical staff at the department's remote health clinics?**

25 incidents of abuse were reported by remote clinic staff during the reporting period.

- 2. How many medical staff have been assaulted at the department's remote health clinics?**

Nil.

- 3. What are the minimum staffing levels for remote health clinics? How many medical, nursing and Aboriginal Health Practitioners are required for a functioning health clinic?**

In general terms, two nursing staff are the minimum staffing levels for remote health centres.

However, in Central Australia where there are very small communities, minimum of 1 nurse and 1 second responder are required to provide a health service event in the health centre.

4. What formula do you use to calculate staffing for remote health clinics? As at 1 July 2019:

Recommended staffing levels by FTE per population size:

Practitioner type	FTE: Population numbers
Remote Medical	1:800
Remote Nursing	1:200
Aboriginal Health Practitioner	1:200

5. How many remote health clinics currently operate with the acceptable level of staffing?

Central Australia Health Service Primary Health Care

As at 1 July 2019, all 23 Central Australia Health Service remote health clinics were operating with the minimum level of staffing.

Top End Health Service Primary Health Care

As at 1 July 2019, the majority of the 23 Top End Health Service remote health clinics had the minimum level of staffing.

6. How many remote health clinics are currently understaffed?

Central Australia Health Service Primary Health Care

As at 1 July 2019, nine clinics were below the recommended staffing levels by FTE per population size for nursing. No remote clinics were short of scheduled visiting medical staff.

Top End Health Service Primary Health Care

As at 1 July 2019, two clinics were below the recommended staffing levels by FTE per population size for nursing. Half the clinics had less than the recommended allocation of medical staff.

There are limited numbers of Aboriginal Health Practitioners associated with the challenges of accessing training and career structure.