

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Dr Lim

to Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

\$30 Million Fix-Up for Alice Springs Hospital

Kindly advise which company is now performing the remediation of defects at the Alice Springs Hospital.

ANSWER

Form and content of Written Questions

The form and content of questions without notice (SO112) apply equally to those asked on notice, but they are able to be applied more strictly to the latter because of the opportunity to examine them closely.

The Speaker has authority to ensure that questions conform with the standing orders, (SO 115). But, in practice, this task is performed by the Clerks, who have traditionally had the Speaker's authority to amend questions submitted before placing them on the Written Question Paper published to Members during sittings and in the parliamentary Record of the Assembly.

The Clerks also edit questions to adapt them to the style of the Written Question Paper, to eliminate unnecessary words, to put them into proper interrogative form, and to ensure that they are addressed to the correct Ministers. Where changes of substance are involved, if practicable the amendments are discussed with the Member concerned or a person on the Member's staff. No question is amended so as to alter its sense without the Member's consent. Only in instances where agreement cannot be reached does the Speaker become personally involved, and any decision then made is final.