

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY****WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Family and Community Services

**Mental Health Funding**

1. Minister last year on 12 October you launched Mental Health Week in Raintree Park – remember the Snakes and Ladders Game. You said in your speech that since coming to office Labor had increased funding to mental health by 90%:
  - a. How is that calculated (A:Green CLP BB compared to 2004/2005 budget).
  - b. How does the change to accrual accounting which has occurred during this time impact on the figures.
  - c. So by including the book-work changes caused by the change to accrual accounting in your claim of an increase of 90% - Is this increase claim a deliberate attempt to mislead people.
  - d. If you claim it is true to say you have nearly doubled expenditure on mental health services in three years – a 90% increase - then, why haven't your reported outputs increased significantly more than reflected in the outputs reported below:
    - i. Total (MH) Inpatient Separations for the NT:
      1. 2000/2001 p110 883
      2. 2003/2004 p132 1196
    - ii. Total NT Mental Health Population (hospital + community)
      3. 2000/2001 p110 3664
      4. 2003/2004 p132 4829

**ANSWER**