

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Health

Hospital Performance Benchmarks

- Please provide the details of how Territory hospitals meet or do not meet the accepted benchmarks for treatment within the specific performance levels for each category.

ANSWER

The 2004/05 Northern Territory hospital performance benchmarks for Elective Surgery Waiting List, Emergency Department and Admitted Patient Average Length of Stay are as given below.

Elective Surgery Waiting List - % Admitted within Urgency Category Time Limits

For the 2004/05 period the percentage of patients admitted from the Elective Surgery Waiting List within their Urgency Category Time Limit are given in the table below.

Urgency Category	Category Time Limit (days)	% Admitted Within Category Time Limit
Category 1 (Urgent)	30	83%
Category 2 (Semi-urgent)	90	68%
Category 3 (Non-urgent)	365*	83%

* This limit has been imposed by the DHCS. The national limit is not an absolute figure and is defined as 'admission at some time in the future'.

Emergency Department - % Treated Within Triage Category Waiting Time Limits

For the 2004/05 period the percentage of Emergency Department patients treated within the limit for their allocated Triage Category are given in the table below.

ATS CATEGORY	TREATMENT ACUITY (Maximum waiting time)	% TREATED WITHIN LIMIT – NT HOSPITALS	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR THRESHOLD
ATS 1	Immediate	100%	100%
ATS 2	10 minutes	61%	80%
ATS 3	30 minutes	61%	75%
ATS 4	60 minutes	55%	70%
ATS 5	120 minutes	87%	70%

Admitted Patient Average Length of Stay

There has been a 2% reduction in Average Length of Stay and a 10.1% increase in Same Day Separations over the 2004/05 Financial Year.

These figures are consistent with national trends. Nationally there has been a 2.9% reduction in Average Length of Stay and a 4% increase in Same Day Separations over the 2002/03 and 2003/04 period.