

No. 464

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Moss to the Minister for Mental Health:

NT Mental Health Strategy 2015/16 Action Plan

The NT Mental Health Strategy released in August last year stated that there would be an annual action plan that would be reported on at the end of each financial year. Can you please provide a copy of the 2015/16 action plan for mental health services provision in the Northern Territory?

RESPONSE:

Due to the release of the Strategy within 2015-16, an Action Plan for that year was not developed. Instead, effort was put into developing a draft Action Plan that outlines the actions proposed to be undertaken during the entire period of the Mental Health Strategy (2015 to 2021). This draft plan will inform the scheduling of the actions across the life of the strategy. It was presented to the Mental Health Coordination Committee on 12 April 2016 for review and feedback and the collated feedback will be presented at the next meeting on 16 June 2016. Once the overview document is complete, an annual Action Plan outlining the key activities for the 2016-17 financial year will be finalised, in consultation with stakeholders. A template to report on the deliverables of each annual action plan will also be developed as documented in the Mental Health Strategic Plan.

Several new initiatives of the Strategic Plan have already commenced or have been implemented including the following:

1. The new territory-wide five bed Youth Inpatient Unit at Royal Darwin Hospital opened on 1 February 2016.

2. The new Mental Health Access Team which includes six additional clinical positions (four for the Top End and two for Central Australia) to allow short term case management and mobile assessments for people in the community.
3. Two additional Top End remote based clinician positions and Aboriginal Mental Health Workers. One position commenced in Maningrida on 1 February 2016. The other position will be based on Tiwi Islands.
4. Two new mental health housing officers (for the Top End and Central Australia mental health services) to assist people with community housing access. Both staff commenced in December 2015.
5. The new Mental Health Court Liaison Service that employs mental health clinicians based at the Darwin and Alice Springs Magistrates Courts. Alice Springs Mental Health Court Liaison Service has been active since September 2015 and the Darwin service commenced in late January 2016.