

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Walker to the Minister for Health:

Incentive Payments under Health National Partnership Agreements

1. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, did the Northern Territory receive their incentive payments under Health National Partnership Agreements for meeting:
 - a) Elective surgery targets
 - b) Emergency Department targets

In 2013, 2014 and 2015 the Northern Territory received incentive or reward payments under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services as follows:

Reward funding area	Reward payment available		Reward Payment received	
	Elective Surgery	Emergency Department	Elective Surgery	Emergency Department
2013	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$522,000	\$0
2014	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$246,500
2015	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$213,749

The amount of reward payment received each year reflected the actual performance of the health services compared with the target performance. However for elective surgery over the period 2009-10 to 2013-14, the days waited at the 50th percentile declined from 44 to 36. That indicates that the wait time for half of the people waiting for elective surgery reduced by 8 days over that period. The wait times for elective surgery in the Northern Territory are comparable with those of other jurisdictions.

For patients presenting to emergency departments the median waiting time reduced from 38 minutes in 2009-10 to 34 minutes in 2013-14. The total number of patients treated in emergency departments in the Northern Territory in 2013-14 was 65,042.