

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Edgington to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Family and Sexual Violence:

**Crisis Accommodation**

In 2022/23 Budget Paper 3, page 158, the KPI for the number of clients provided with crisis accommodation services due to DFSV budgeted at 6 500 for 2021/22, but the estimate was on 4 600. Note 9 on the same page states that this is due to a “revised counting rule for this measure to more accurately reflect output and the impact of COVID-19”.

1. Please provide a more detailed explanation of this note? What was the previous counting rule, what is the new one, and how was counting impacted by COVID-19?

**Answer:**

Following a recent review, it was identified that some of the non-government organisation delivered services that were being counted against this measure were not crisis accommodation services but were other non-accommodation domestic and family violence services (such as counselling and outreach services) while others were services provided for out-of-home care leavers.

The counting rule was then changed to only count the clients of crisis accommodation services (both non-government organisation delivered services, and Department run women’s safe houses). The change to the counting rule now more accurately reflects the wording for the Budget Paper 3 measure and, as fewer services are now counted, means that fewer clients are now recorded.

During COVID-19, in response to public health recommendations and Chief Health Officer Directions, capacity of some services were reduced. Over the pandemic, services adjusted their accommodation configurations to safely maximise the numbers in service provision.