

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

Aeromedical services review

- 1. Could you please provide details of the current review into aeromedical services that was referred to during the 2023 Estimates hearings? What does this review involve? Who will be consulted? Will the review be made public?**

The contract for “*Provision of Aeromedical Retrievals and Inter-Hospital Transfers in the Top End of the NT*” has been in place since 1 January 2013. CareFlight is the service provider. The contract end date is 30 June 2026.

The current NT Health review underway is to establish the future model of care and business requirements to inform the new contract for effectiveness, efficiency and is fit for purpose. This work is highly sensitive and bound by strict confidentiality due to its commercial in confidence context.

Consultation is occurring with the regional health service.

NT Health will be going to market to procure the new contract informed by this review. The request for tender (RFQ) will be in the public domain.

- 2. What is the current process in relation to emergency patient retrieval from homelands across all of North East Arnhem Land?**

CareFlight has responsibility for logistics coordination and patient duty of care. If a CareFlight aircraft cannot land in homelands, they may enter into a third party agreement with another provider (e.g. Mission Aviation Fellowship) who will undertake the retrieval, when needed, accompanied by a St John Ambulance Australia NT paramedic and a CareFlight nurse or doctor, depending on the acuity of the patient.