



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 117

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Health, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

Alcohol and other drug services

Please provide a breakdown of the \$60.3m in the health budget for alcohol and other drug services? Specifically:

- a. How much of this funding is directly for prevention, assessment and treatment services?**

NT Health invests \$26 million in commissioning community-based Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, across the Northern Territory. This funding supports prevention, assessment, and treatment initiatives aimed at reducing harm.

The remainder of the investment supports the direct delivery of AOD services by NT Health across the Northern Territory, including clinical care and associated operational costs.

- b. Has direct funding for services increased or decreased since the last budget?**

The Community Treatment and Extended Care, Alcohol and Other Drugs budget increased from \$57.6 million in 2024–25 to \$60.3 million in 2025–26.

- c. How will the NT Government ensure funding allocated to AOD services addresses identified gaps in access for women and children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeking treatment support in metro, regional and remote areas?**

NT Health participates in cross-government and external committees, engaging Peak Bodies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) that advocate for people seeking treatment. NT Health is also working with the Commonwealth Government to formalise a new six-year Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) agreement, aimed at strengthening remote AOD, mental health, and harm reduction services.

To address service gaps, NT Health implemented several targeted strategies, including expanding Ambulatory Treatment Services, and improving access to flexible, community-based outpatient care.

d. What portion of this \$60.3m AOD budget is allocated to workforce development and retention specifically for the NT, due to critical shortages in regional and remote areas of the NT?

NT Health commissions the Association of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies NT as the peak body to support the AOD workforce across the Northern Territory, including training and professional development to ensure long-term sustainability. The NTRAI partnership agreement supports workforce development through enhanced training opportunities.

NT Health is a member of the Aboriginal Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Workforce Project focused on building skills and capability within the community-based sector. NT Health AOD staff have access to targeted in-house training programs, including AOD Sensory Training, SMART Recovery, and Turning Point Training.

e. Is there a commitment to fund integrated AOD and mental health service models, including co-location and shared case management approaches, given the Top End Integrated Care Service funding was retracted?

Through the NTRAI partnership, NT Health supports ACCOs to embed Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) into service delivery. SEWB promotes a holistic, integrated approach to health, encompassing physical, mental, social, emotional, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing.

f. What evaluation frameworks will be applied to current and new AOD initiatives funded through the NT Budget to ensure evidence-based impact and accountability?

All health services are accredited, and NT Health conducts regular reviews, including site visits, to evaluate community-based services against performance data and evidence-based strategic frameworks. Monitoring includes financial accountability, with all government funding subject to reporting requirements, to ensure responsible use of public resources.

The Northern Territory Government Grants Rules and Guidelines outlines contestability requirements for commissioning new services, ensuring they deliver value for the Territory.