



## Petition

Registration No.	17
Title	Royal Darwin Hospital Review
Presented on	9 June 2009
Presented by	Member for Greatorex, Mr Conlan MLA
Referred to	Health (Vatskalis)
Date referred	9 June 2009
Response due	14 October 2009
Response received	6 October 2009
Response presented	12 October 2009

### Petition

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:**

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH that we are angry and upset by the avoidable death of 64 year old Margaret Winter at the Royal Darwin Hospital in 2006. We are alarmed by Northern Territory coroner Greg Cavanagh's findings that indicate that the conditions in the Royal Darwin Hospital were dangerous due to inadequate staffing.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY that the Northern Territory Government immediately commission an Independent Review to assess the adequacy of the resources, policy's, procedures and systems at the Royal Darwin Hospital and Acute Care Services to deliver safe health care to all Territorian's. As a matter of urgency the review should investigate the staffing levels of nurses and doctors to assess whether patients are at risk due to low staffing levels.

We request that the Independent review be made public in its entirety and that the recommendations be implemented immediately.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.

### Response

I note the concerns raised by those who have petitioned, and I am pleased to advise that the reports of four independent reviews were made publicly available on 16 March 2009 and may be found at [www.health.nt.gov.au](http://www.health.nt.gov.au). The reports released were:

- Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Governance Review;
- Nursing House per Patient Day implementation (Professor Christine Duffield);
- Complaints Management Review (Mr Ray Norman); and
- Security Audit Stage One.

As mentioned in my previous correspondence to you in February 2009, Royal Darwin Hospital has been actively addressing many of the areas of concern highlighted. The independent reports outline a way forward and I am pleased to state that the Department of Health and Families and Royal Darwin Hospital continue to progress many initiatives towards improvement of patient care and safety.

I welcome the community's support and interest in the operations of their hospital and I trust that they will welcome, as I do, the consistent work towards improvement.