

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

#### **Palmerston Regional Hospital Issues**

**1. Is Palmerston Regional Hospital (PRH) fully staffed and operational?**

Palmerston Regional Hospital has been operational since opening on 27 August 2018 and has 98 per cent positions filled.

**2. How many clinical staff are permanently based at PRH?**

Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals operate as a one hospital two campus model with rotational workforce arrangements to ensure both sites are adequately staffed with the appropriate skill mix, experience and staffing numbers to support service delivery.

Approximately 200 clinical staff are primarily based at PRH.

**3. How many clinical staff work between Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) and PRH?**

As above, both campuses operate under rotational workforce arrangements to ensure both sites are adequately staffed with the appropriate skill mix, experience and staffing numbers to support service delivery.

**4. What is the current operating cost of PRH?**

Operating costs are captured across both sites aligned with the clinical structure. Costing activity is currently being undertaken to refine methodology and application of costs.

**5. What are the vacancy rates for PRH?**

Vacancy rates for PRH are difficult to report given the integrated service model.

**6. How many beds are in use at PRH? How many beds per month since its opening?**

PRH is currently operating with 90 beds including 22 Emergency Department acute bays and 68 inpatient beds.

Four beds were opened in the Geriatric Evaluation Unit in June 2019.

**7. How many transfers of patients between PRH and RDH have occurred since PRH opened?**

There have been 2223 road transport patient transfers between PRH and RDH from 27 August 2018 to 30 June 2019.

**8. What are the main reasons for those transfers?**

78% of the transfers were due to cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal/ skin/ rheumatology, respiratory, trauma and neurological conditions where the patients' condition required access to more specialised acute care.

**9. What has been the total cost to date for those transfers?**

\$1.47 million

**10. Is it operating within budget? If not, how much are they exceeding their budget by and why?**

The Financial Year 2018-19 annual accounts for Top End Health Service are currently being prepared.

**11. When do you expect to expand the operations of PRH?**

Top End Health Service is now reviewing the scope of services and planning to expand the models of care that can be safely delivered at PRH to optimise services across both sites.