

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

**Palmerston Regional Hospital**

- 1. According to your figures Palmerston Regional Hospital (PRH) is operating with 90 out of 116 beds. When will you open the rest of the beds (26)?**

Planning is underway for the next stage of services at Palmerston Regional Hospital. As a campus of Royal Darwin Hospital, low acuity medical and surgical services are suitable for delivering at Palmerston Regional Hospital, to optimise services across both sites. It is anticipated that services will be opened in stages to ensure clinical safety over the course of 2019/20.

- 2. Exactly how much further funding (percentage and dollar figures) have you sought from the Commonwealth for hospitals in the Northern Territory and particularly PRH?**

Recurrent funding for hospitals is provided to State and Territories under the National Health Reform Agreement. The amount of funding provided is mostly dependent on the level of activity delivered. In financial year 2018-19 the Northern Territory (NT) received a total of \$286 million. This funding is provided to the NT for health services, not for specific hospitals.

**3. If you have 98 percent of positions filled at PRH, why do you still need to have the rotational workforce arrangement with Royal Darwin Hospital?**

Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals service model operates as a single service over both sites. Palmerston Regional Hospital workforce allocation was designed to have a rotational workforce with Royal Darwin Hospital. Workforce will rotate across both sites for a number of reasons including skill mix allocation depending on patient acuity, college training requirements for Medical Officers and operational needs. Top End Health Services utilises workforce planning and vacancy management strategies to ensure both hospital sites have the required workforce to support safe patient services.