

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development:

Better Pathways Centre in Darwin

1. Why isn't the Better Pathways Centre part of your *Pathways Out of Homelessness* strategy?

Priority Action 5.3 under the Northern Territory Homelessness Strategy provides a commitment to 'develop and implement a service response to support people sleeping rough across urban and regional centres'.

2. What is the budgeted ongoing costs of the Centre?

Ongoing costs to operate the Darwin Better Pathways Centre will be determined through an open request for proposals process.

3. Is it expected the Centre will be a permanent fixture in the city centre?

The Darwin Better Pathways Centre will operate at 56 Woods Street, Darwin, from early 2020 until a permanent location can be established.

4. How many public consultation meetings have you had on the Centre?

Proactive engagement has included face to face consultation through door knocking of residences and businesses in the immediate area surrounding the site at 56 Woods Street, Darwin.

Fact sheets have been distributed to residences and businesses and have been made publicly available on the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development website.

Consultation and engagement has also been undertaken with a number of peak organisations, non-government service providers, the City of Darwin and local groups such as Activate Darwin.

Two pop-up stands were hosted in September 2019 (one in Smith Street Mall and one onsite), to provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the Better Pathways Centre and the anticipated benefits to the community.

The majority of stakeholders consulted to date have indicated their support for the Darwin Better Pathways Centre.

5. Do you have plans to develop a Better Pathways Centre in other Territory towns? In Darwin's suburbs? If so where and according to what timeframes?

As part of the Northern Territory Government's Five Point Plan a commitment was provided to establish new Better Pathways Centres in Darwin city, the northern suburbs and Palmerston. The first of these will be the Darwin city Better Pathways Centre.