

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Dr Lim

to Minister for Health

Elective Surgery Waiting Time

1. How many people are currently waiting for elective surgery across the Territory?
2. Please provide the number of people on elective surgery waiting lists by hospital?
3. Please provide the number of people on elective surgery waiting lists for Territory hospitals by category of elective surgery?
4. What is the longest waiting period for elective surgery, and how many persons are involved, by each Territory hospital?
5. How many persons have died while waiting for an elective surgery medical procedure, by calendar year and for each Territory hospital?

ANSWERS

1. As at 31 May 2006, there were 3277 people on elective surgery waiting lists at NT public hospitals.
2. The number of people on elective surgery waiting lists by hospital as at 31 May 2006 is as follows:

Hospital	No. of people on waiting list at 31 May 2006
Royal Darwin Hospital	1438
Alice Springs Hospital	1225
Gove District Hospital	241
Katherine Hospital	273
Tennant Creek Hospital	100
Total	3277

3. The number of people on elective surgery waiting lists for Territory hospitals by category of elective surgery is as follows:

	Elective: Urgent	Elective: Semi-Urgent	Elective: Non-Urgent	Total
Royal Darwin Hospital	174	462	802	1438
Alice Springs Hospital	115	560	550	1225
Gove District Hospital	10	88	143	241
Katherine Hospital	10	60	203	273
Tennant Creek Hospital	3	36	61	100
Total	312	1206	1759	3277

4. What is the longest waiting period for elective surgery, and how many persons are involved, by each Territory hospital?

The standard measure for measuring “long waits” on elective surgery waiting lists is to count the number of patients currently on the list who have waited more than 365 days. As at 31 May 2006, the following numbers of patients who were waiting greater than 365 days was as follows:

Hospital	No. of people on waiting list greater than 365 days at 31 May 2006
Royal Darwin Hospital	297
Alice Springs Hospital	748
Gove District Hospital	54
Katherine Hospital	69
Tennant Creek Hospital	68
Total	1236

5. How many persons have died while waiting for an elective surgery medical procedure, by calendar year and for each Territory hospital?

Departmental information systems are not able to capture the full extent of this information. Any data provided here would be incomplete and could be open to misinterpretation.