



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 119

## WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Health, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

### Health approach to crime

**1. Given the NT's health inequality, is there any health-based strategy toward tackling crime in the NT? If not, why not?**

NT Health has specific responsibilities to deliver services, which address underlying risk factors and root causes of crime:

- Effective and accessible treatment for alcohol and other drug problems.
- Early intervention for mental health challenges.
- Increasing access to screening and therapeutic interventions for young people who have neurodevelopmental delays.
- Establishing the expert Alcohol Treatment Collaborative to redesign and implement compulsory treatment programs.
- Chairing the cross-government Alcohol Policy Taskforce to consider alcohol policy measures, reduce crime and tackle problem drinking through addressing alcohol supply, enhancing counselling services and addressing alcohol-related offending.

**2. Is the government planning to investigate a civilian mental health first responders' strategy like New Mexico's in future? If not, why not?**

The Northern Territory Government has recognised that lived experience is fundamental in the delivery of contemporary, evidence-based services in wellbeing and mental health support, by funding a Lived Experience Network to develop local strategies and programs.

**3. Is the government looking to any successful international health-based crime strategies? If not, why not?**

Examples from overseas are always considered in development of new approaches and solutions. The learnings from these initiatives then need to be matched to the unique context of the Northern Territory, addressing the social determinants of health and crime, alongside investment in prevention, early intervention, diversion, and rehabilitation.