

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

Renal Patient Treatment

- 1. Please advise how the NT Government will help to implement the Federal Government roll out of remote access for renal patients for dialysis through Medicare?**

The Australian Government has introduced a new Medicare Benefit Scheme item to fund the provision of dialysis services in very remote regions (as defined by Modified Monash Model (MMM) 7). The schedule fee is \$592 per treatment and is proposed to commence on 1 November 2018. The Australian Government is yet to officially release the descriptors and explanatory notes for this item.

The Northern Territory Government lobbied the Australian Government for this item. Until official correspondence is received from the Australian Government, the Department of Health is unable to advise on how the item will be rolled out.

- 2. What will this mean for dialysis users in the Nhulunbuy Electorate region?**

This new funding stream creates the potential for Aboriginal Medical Services to support renal dialysis services in remote primary health centres, under specialist medical supervision.

However, official detailed correspondence from the Australian Government is required before specific planning can occur.