

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

#### Royal Darwin Hospital issues

- 1. What plans are in place to upgrade the facilities of the pathology and forensic medicine services at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH)? Is there any additional funding available to upgrade the facilities?**

The RDH master plan includes new forensic pathology, mortuary and grieving areas.

- 2. Is the RDH master planning underway? When will we see the results of that master planning?**

RDH Master Planning options are being considered by Government.

- 3. What is happening with the old rehab ward at RDH? Is it still currently vacant? What budget do you have to turn it into another use?**

The ward is currently open as a 16 bed acute medical ward. In the move to Palmerston Regional Hospital, patient beds were moved to provide a more equitable ward size, thus some wards have decreased in patient numbers as the 16 bed ward has opened. This has been done within overall bed numbers.

- 4. Is RDH operating within budget? If not, how much are they exceeding their budget by and why?**

The Financial Year 2018-19 annual accounts for Top End Health Service are currently being prepared.

- 5. Exactly how much direct Territory funding have you allocated to RDH each year since 2016/17?**

The information cannot readily be provided at that level of detail due to the complex nature of the Commonwealth National Health Reform funding arrangements. The amount of administrative effort required to respond would be excessive and time-consuming and result in undue diversion of resources from service delivery.

6. **Have there been any code yellows at RDH since March last year? How many and when were they?**

There have been no code yellow activations since March 2018.

7. **How many beds in RDH are currently being used by aged care patients who would be better suited to an aged care facility?**

As at 11 July 2019, there were 29 patients across both RDH and Palmerston Regional Hospital awaiting residential care placement or being processed for placement.

8. **What is the projected cost for repairs and maintenance at RDH over the next 10 years?**

The 10 year forecast approximate cost for repairs and maintenance is \$139.28 million.

9. **How many incidents causing harm have occurred at RDH in the reporting period? (eg, assaults, accidents)**

There were 130 Reported Incidents of Harm during the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019 (Classification: Worker/Client/Patient/Visitor/Relative).

10. **How many instances of bed block have occurred at RDH since March last year?**

Bed block is associated with a code yellow, and thus has not occurred. There are delays in moving patients from the Emergency Department to acute beds for a variety of reasons over the course of a day but this is not 'bed block'.

11. **How many staff have been injured at RDH since March last year?**

There were 164 Reported Incidents of Injury to Staff during the period 1 March 2018 - 31 July 2019