

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms Carney

to Minister for Family and Community Services

Child Psychiatrist Services, Alice Springs

1. Recently Daniel Rumbal has not had any access to a child psychiatrist in Alice Springs. Furthermore, this matter been ongoing for approximately 12 months with no resolution –
 - (a) Why does Daniel now need to travel as far as Perth to be seen by a suitably qualified medical practitioner; and
 - (b) Is any hope for a child psychiatrist to be based in Alice Springs in the near future, or for that matter elsewhere in the Northern Territory, as I understand that there are no child psychiatrists in the Territory at present?

ANSWER

Section 91 of the *Mental Health and Related Services Act* prohibits disclosure of any information regarding a patient's contact with mental health services without consent. I do not have the consent of the persons concerned within this case to provide any details pertaining to their health condition or treatment. However, I can respond to your question regarding the availability of child psychiatry services in the Northern Territory.

There is a permanent child and adolescent Psychiatrist based in Darwin. There is a second child psychiatrist position in Alice Springs that is currently vacant. There is a specialist child and adolescent psychologist based in Alice Springs.

Child and adolescent psychiatry services in Central Australia have been provided by visiting locum specialists throughout 2004. This will continue until a permanent appointment is made. When Labour came to Government there were no dedicated Government child psychiatrist positions in the Northern Territory.