

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Health:

Ernst & Young Consultancy

Questions:

Your response to a previous Written Question shows that a contract was awarded to Ernst and Young Darwin during the period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020 for \$581,787 for a consultancy titled 'COVID-19 Response and Review and Recommendations'. It was indicated that no tender or quote was invited.

1. Why was this tender not released publically?

As a result of the declaration of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a notifiable disease, the Minister for Business and Innovation approved the COVID-19 emergency procurement exemption process in accordance with the *Procurement Act 1995* on 12 March 2020, which enables a select procurement process.

This was utilised to urgently review the public health response to the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic and to identify potential risks and opportunities. It was not required to be released publicly.

2. Why was the tender awarded, not published on the Tenders online web page?

The award was notified to the Procurement Review Board as required for COVID-19 specific procurements.

3. When the NT News identified on 11 December 2020 that this tender showed up nowhere on the NT Government's awarded contracts database, why didn't the Department take steps to release this publically?

The award was notified to the Procurement Review Board as required for COVID-19 specific procurements.

- 4. If the awarded tender was published somewhere else, please provide details.**

As above.

- 5. When is the Ernst & Young tender expected to be completed and has there been any cost variations above the initial \$581,787 and what are they?**

The Ernst and Young work will be completed by 1 July 2021. There have been variations to respond to the risks and opportunities assessed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes system integration planning; patient flow review; virtual and ambulatory care strategies.

- 6. Will this consultancy report be made available publically?**

No, the purpose of the report is Cabinet in Confidence.

- 7. How did the initial consultancy for a COVID-19 response and review turn into a plan to centralize and integrate NT Health, Top End Services and Central Australia Health Services?**

The initial consultancy identified potential risks, opportunities and innovations that had occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic response. It highlighted opportunities to build resilience into the system, to improve access, equity, safety and quality health services, while strengthening and embedding regional leadership in system governance and decision making. The design and implementation of one integrated health system was an outcome of the initial consultancy.

- 8. When will you make public the Ernst & Young recommended new service model, which is reported to commence from 1 July 2021?**

The new service model is currently undergoing consultation with staff and stakeholders.

9. Has there been any stakeholder or public consultation on the \$581,787 report?

Stakeholder engagement has commenced on the new integrated health system in preparation for 1 July 2021.