

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

## Question Taken on Notice

**Question No:** 4-9  
**Date:** 14 June 2018  
**Subject:** Budget breakdown for implementation of the NT Renal Strategy  
**From:** Member for Arnhem, Ms Selena Uiibo  
**To:** Hon. Natasha Fyles  
**Agency:** Health

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**Question:** Could you please provide the figures of the budget which is spent on the implementation of the renal strategy across the Northern Territory.

**Answer:**

Northern Territory Government

In 2017-18, the total budget spent on renal services across NT Health (inclusive of the Top End Health Service, Central Australia Health Service and Department of Health) in support of the Renal Strategy is \$53.29 million.

Australian Government funding

The Australian Government has recently announced that in the 2018-19 budget, it will provide funding of \$25.3 million over three years to Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku (Western Desert Dialysis) for the expansion of remote renal clinics, so more Aboriginal people in Central Australia who suffer from kidney disease can receive dialysis on country or as near to their communities as possible.

It is expected the funding will allow completion of clinics this year at Utopia, Ampilawatja, Kalkarindji and Ernabella, plus the expansion of the Lajamanu clinic. It will also support the operating costs of another three clinics.

The Australian Government has previously provided \$17.6 million over four years to Western Desert for renal support services in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, including \$6.45 million to enable Western Desert to build and expand renal infrastructure in Central Australia at six locations in the Northern Territory and one in South Australia.

Medicare Benefits Schedule item

The Australian Government has recently announced a new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item to fund the provision of dialysis services in very remote regions (defined by Modified Monash Model (MMM) 7).

It is anticipated that this will be at an estimated cost of \$34.8 million over four years from 2018-19. The schedule fee is \$592 per treatment and is proposed to commence on 1 November 2018.

The Australian Government provided the following information on the MBS item:

- Management of haemodialysis, for each service provided to a person with end-stage kidney disease by or on behalf of a medical practitioner, who is employed by or contracted to a primary care organisation that provides haemodialysis services
- The service is administered by a renal nurse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner or Aboriginal health worker with appropriate training to support dialysis patients under the auspices of a medical practitioner
- The patient is not an admitted patient of a hospital
- The service is provided by a:
  - local primary care clinic or NGO; or
  - by a health organisation with the support of the local primary care clinic; and
- The person administering the dialysis is employed by or contracted to the service described above.
- The patient is under the care of a nephrologist affiliated with the local regional dialysis service, with review every 3-6 months either physically or via telehealth.