

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

STI Plan Update

1. Regarding the Northern Territory Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses Strategic and Operational Plan 2019-2023. Besides the 2023 timeframe, what specific timeframes are there for each activity outlined in the plan?

For example, activity 1.6.3 on page 12 of the plan – Develop, implement and evaluate a culturally sensitive community engagement program that addresses the needs of Aboriginal people who inject drugs – when do you plan to have that in place?

2. What funding has been allocated towards the implementation of the plan?

RESPONSE

1. *The Northern Territory Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses Strategic and Operational Plan 2019-2023*, is the first strategy of its type for the Northern Territory.

It has been developed by NT key stakeholders, through the NT Sexual Health Advisory Group (SHAG), and in relation to the five national STI and BBV strategies to reduce the incidence and prevalence of STI and BBV.

Timeframes and implementation will be affected by a range of factors including innovations in practice and service delivery, advancements in biomedical technology, availability of resources and changes in STI and BBV disease patterns. The Plan's implementation will be coordinated and monitored through SHAG meetings.

In relation to 1.6.3 *Develop, implement and evaluate a culturally sensitive community engagement program that addresses the needs of Aboriginal People who inject drugs*, the NT Health Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Unit has been engaging with the Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC) regarding progression of this activity, with a timeframe to be developed.

2. Priority actions and specific activities in the Plan that are currently in place have been deployed from current resources.

Additional resources have been received by some Aboriginal community-controlled health services from the Australian Government specifically for syphilis outbreak response measures.

Additional resources will be identified to implement other parts of the Plan, such as funding from Eliminate Hepatitis C Australia to improve the uptake of hepatitis C testing and treatment in the NT.

The Plan includes some elements that may benefit from additional funding from a variety of sources in the future.