

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Health

Dengue Mosquito Outbreak and Vaccine Distribution

1. The Dengue mosquito outbreak in Tennant Creek was of great concern in the earlier part of 2004/05. Have the programs put in place completely eradicated the Dengue mosquitoes in Tennant Creek?
2. What is the number of vaccines to be distributed by the Department in 2004/05 to places like Community Health Centres and GPs and how do you determine the number of vaccines that will be required?

ANSWER

1. The Dengue mosquito *Aedes aegypti* was discovered in Tennant Creek in February 2004. An initial survey and control program conducted by Department of Health and Community Services in 2004 inspected 1100 properties and found 89 of these breeding *Aedes aegypti*. The initial control program dramatically reduced the numbers of *Aedes aegypti*.

As of November 2005, there had been no new detections in the previous 42 weeks of *Aedes aegypti* in Tennant Creek.

2. Currently there is no available vaccine against the dengue virus. The eradication of the mosquito in Tennant Creek and continued vigilance, surveillance and control programs to keep the dengue mosquito out of the NT will prevent outbreaks of dengue disease in the NT.