

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Hersey to the Minister for Seniors:

NT Seniors Recognition Scheme Prepaid Visa Card

- 1. Please provide the reasons why the NT Seniors Recognition Scheme prepaid visa card is manufactured and managed by a Queensland based company, EML Payment Solutions Limited.**

The Northern Territory Seniors Recognition Scheme recognises the incredibly valuable contribution seniors make to the community. Around 80 per cent of NT residents 65 years and older are now members of the scheme, with around 15,500 prepaid cards delivered to seniors this financial year.

Unfortunately, no plastic card manufacturing facility exists in the NT with the capacity to generate the volumes and types of cards required.

- 2. Please provide the reasons that the NT Seniors Recognition Scheme prepaid visa card is subject to the laws of the jurisdiction of Queensland. (Copy of Terms and conditions attached)**

The EML Australia head office is in Queensland and, as such, it operates under the laws of Queensland. It is common practice for banks to reference the State or Territory of their registered headquarters even though they operate nationally.

- 3. Please advise if the Government intends for the prepaid cards to be manufactured and managed in the Northern Territory.**

No plastic card manufacturing facility exists in the NT with the capacity to generate the volumes and types of cards required.

In 2018, at the time of the required supply, the contract was provided by the NT Government's contracted banking supplier as part of an agreed subcontracting arrangement. There is an opportunity for this to be reviewed prior to the expiry of the banking services contract in March 2024.