

Question No: 262

Question: Mental Health Services

Date: 17/11/92

Member: Mr BAILEY

To: MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. What community consultation occurred and what community input was requested in designing the new secure mental health facility.
2. What facilities are available for the mentally-ill within the Northern Territory.
3. What programs for the mentally-ill are fully or partially funded by the Northern Territory government.

ANSWER

1. The term 'new secure facility' has been taken to mean the new mental health facility at the Royal Darwin Hospital.

The new facility was first proposed in 1990. It formed part of the government's election promises in 1991. The proposal has been mentioned several times in the Legislative Assembly as part of Ministerial Statements. It was also mentioned in the media on several occasions in 1992.

In 1992 during regular meetings between the Mental Health Association and Mental Health Services the new facility at the Royal Darwin Hospital was discussed. Two public meetings were also held on 10 and 22 September 1992 at the Tamarind Centre and Casuarina Community Foundation Room.

2. The term 'facilities' has been taken to refer to specialist inpatient facilities at the Royal Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals.

Royal Darwin Hospital

Cowdy Ward 12 beds
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Unit 10 beds
Ward 9 Secure Unit 7 beds

Alice Springs Hospital

Ward 1 12 beds
Katherine, Gove and Tennant Creek Hospitals also admit psychiatric patients to non-specialist wards.

3. All departmental programs are fully funded by the Northern Territory government. In addition the Northern Territory Mental Health Association is funded for its accommodation program. Grow International is also funded by the Northern Territory government.