

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

#### **Remote Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Facilities**

- 1. What culturally and language appropriate alcohol and drug rehab facilities and services are provided in remote communities or homeland centres for adults? How do remote community members access drug and alcohol rehab if they want to try and manage their illness?**

The Northern Territory (NT) Government provides funding for 50 remote alcohol and other drugs (AOD) workers. These employees are often working within the community in which they live to provide holistic and culturally appropriate brief interventions and supports for people seeking assistance to address substance misuse problems.

In the larger centres, there is a range of AOD treatment options available through primary health care clinics and Aboriginal Medical Services. In addition to these services, there are local Alcohol Action Initiatives that are driven by remote Aboriginal communities that deliver practical action that reduces alcohol-related harm.

Planning for alcohol and other drug services is based on the understanding that most adults will benefit more by remaining on country through a range of interventions that do not involve treatment within an institutional setting. If a residential rehabilitation service is determined to be required then a referral can be made to an ACCHO funded for the provision of these supports.

The Department of Health is currently working with Yolngu leaders in East Arnhem to establish a dedicated facility for young people on country. This is planned to be operational by the end of 2021.

- 2. What funds in the 21/22 budget are being provided to remote communities to tackle the issue of drug and alcohol abuse in their communities?**

The following investments will be made in the 2021-22 period:

- \$994,000 to deliver 46 Alcohol Action Initiative projects in remote communities.
- \$4.428 million to employ the Remote AOD Workforce.
- \$504,294 to deliver AOD Counselling, information and education services in Tiwi Islands and Wadeye.
- \$450,000 for Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation to employ youth workers to work with East Arnhem region communities to focus on volatile substance abuse issues.