

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

Miwatj Health Indexation

- 1. The NT Government's grant to Miwatj Health to deliver Primary Health Care services in 2023/24 is \$8.8M. In 2022/23 indexation provided to Miwatj Health was 1.08% when inflation was running at around 7%. In 2023/24, indexation was 0.08% - which works out to be around \$5,000 – at a time when inflation was about 3.9%. This means that the NTG's contribution to Miwatj Health has reduced by over 10% in real terms over that period. The impact has been a reduction in important child health and chronic disease management nurse positions. Given the poor state of Yolngu Health, how does the Government expect sustainable improvements in Yolngu health when NT Government grants to Miwatj Health are reducing in real terms each year?**

The indexation rate applied to NT Government grants is set by the Department of Treasury and Finance and is calculated in accordance with Budget Paper No. 2. The indexation uplift is based on the NT Government policy to enhance multi-year funding agreements, however it is also important that planning decisions are not reliant upon assumed indexation figure which is not guaranteed.

NT Health is currently operating in a very tight fiscal environment, and has no discretionary budget to supplement allocations.

Primary health care is a core responsibility of the Australian Government. The Northern Territory Government is continuing to advocate to the Australian Government for improved funding arrangements of all remote health services.