

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Health:

Integrated Withdrawal and Assessment Service

During the Estimates Committee Hearing on 14 June 2022 you stated that the Integrated Withdrawal and Assessment Service (IWAS) had been closed but was expected to reopen.

1. What date was IWAS closed?

22 December 2021.

2. What was the reason for closing this facility?

The facility was assessed as not suitable from an infection control perspective related to COVID-19 outbreaks.

3. Has IWAS been reopened? If so, what date was this facility opened?

IWAS was reopened on 1 July 2022.

4. What is the bed capacity of IWAS?

Maximum bed capacity is 7 beds.

5. How often is this bed capacity full?

The facility has not reached full capacity.

6. Is there a waiting list for people wishing to access this facility? If so, please provide details.

There is no waiting list. Patients are assessed and an admission date is planned based on bed availability and clinical priority.

7. What programs and therapeutic options are available at this facility? Please provide details.

The IWAS unit provides medically managed acute and subacute withdrawal management, with 24/7 specialist nursing support. The following programs are available:

- Access to Alcohol and other Drugs trained staff and biopsychosocial support.
- A therapeutic purpose built sensory garden to facilitate recuperation through mindfulness, visual / relaxation and therapeutic engagement.
- Music therapy.
- Art and craft.
- Cooking.
- Meditation.
- Fully functional gymnasium.
- Sleep hygiene - forming a sleep routine.
- Psychoeducation, including online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is available for self-paced treatment of mood, anxiety and related mental health conditions.

8. How many people have accessed this facility since reopening?

50.

9. How many people accessed this facility in 2020?

In 2020-21, 132 clients accessed IWAS.

10. How many people accessed this facility in 2021?

In 2021-22, 58 patients accessed IWAS, noting that IWAS was closed from 22 December 2021 – 30 June 2022.

11. What is the average length of stay for people accessing this facility?

IWAS provides a 9 day structured program and may be extended to facilitate transition to residential rehabilitation programs or return to home community.

12. How many staff are employed at this facility? Please provide details.

11 FTE positions including:

- 1 x Nurse management consultant
- 5 x Clinical nurse specialists
- 5 x Specialist support workers.

The Alice Springs Hospital Addiction Medicine team provides assessment and management as required.