

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

#### COVID Outbreak in remote communities

- 1. Minister, if there is an outbreak of COVID in remote communities in North East Arnhem Land, what plan is there to address the outbreak?**

The Remote Outbreak Management Plan was developed by NT Health in collaboration with partners, including from multiple Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations including Miwatj Health and was further extended to involve the whole of government response by the Emergency Operation Centre.

The Remote Outbreak Management Plan is supported by the Local Pandemic Action Plans.

Local Emergency Committees have developed comprehensive Local Pandemic Action Plans. These community-specific plans were developed through a multi-stakeholder partnership led by NT Health. Miwatj Health and Laynahapuy Health service have been heavily engaged in this process.

- 2. How have elders and leaders been involved in this planning?**

The Remote Outbreak Management Plan was taken to every major community in North East Arnhem Land in 2020 for discussion with the Local Emergency Committee and Elders and to open forums for community members.

NT Health facilitated these discussions in collaboration with Miwatj Health, NT Police and the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

Community engagement was strong with feedback from community members leading to updates in the Remote Outbreak Management Plan.

- 3. How will elders and leaders be involved in the event of an outbreak?**

Community elders and leaders will play an important role, and be key advisors, in the event of an outbreak. The extent of their role would depend upon their status (i.e. close, casual or low risk contact or not exposed).