

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Health:

Acute Hospital Services

- 1. How many additional hospital beds have been created in Northern Territory Hospitals to accommodate COVID patients?
Please provide details for the total number of beds and the number of beds for each hospital.**
- 2. How many acute hospital beds have been changed from one purpose (eg. pediatrics, surgical) to specifically treat COVID patients?
Please provide details of which hospital, the nature of the change and how many beds.**

TCH

TCH has changed the 14-bed Acute Care Ward to a 12-bed Isolation Ward. Two emergency department beds are allocated to treat COVID-positive patients.

ASH

18 paediatric and 17 adult beds have been repurposed for managing COVID inpatients.

KH

6 beds have been repurposed as COVID beds within the current bed capacity at KH. These are a combination of Adult and Paediatric beds.

GH

- 11 beds on the mixed acute Medical/Surgical/Paediatric Ward have been changed to accommodate COVID positive patients.
- One Maternity Bed and one birthing suite have been allocated to accommodate COVID positive maternity patients.

RDPH

- Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH): 84 beds repurposed to COVID beds.
- RDH Emergency Department: 24 bays allocated as COVID bays.
- Lorraine Brennan Centre (LBC): 56 beds.

- 3. Please describe changes, both staffing and physical changes to the hospital, made to the Royal Darwin Hospital to accommodate COVID patients over the past 12 months.**
 - Four wards have been repurposed as COVID-positive wards.

- Staffing is increased in the COVID-19 wards to ensure appropriate PPE standards are maintained staff fatigue is appropriately managed.

4. Please describe changes both, staffing and physical changes to the hospital, made to the Palmerston Regional Hospital to accommodate COVID patients over the past 12 months.

Nil.

5. Please describe changes, both staffing and physical changes to the hospital, made to the Alice Springs Hospital to accommodate COVID patients over the past 12 months.

- Three wards have been repurposed as COVID-positive wards
- The Flynn Drive Dialysis Unit has been converted to a 'red' COVID positive dialysis zone. Non-COVID positive dialysis is now occurring at the Gap Road dialysis clinic.
- Additional staffing to manage increased cleaning requirements associated with COVID.

6. Please describe changes, both staffing and physical changes to the hospital, made to the Tennant Creek Hospital to accommodate COVID patients over the past 12 months.

- The six-bed Paediatric Ward is now the Acute Care Ward
- An alternative entrance to the hospital for COVID-positive patients has been created
- Additional nursing staff

7. Please describe changes, both staffing and physical changes to the hospital, made to the Katherine District Hospital to accommodate COVID patients over the past 12 months.

Nil, as all changes occurred over 12 months ago.

8. Please describe changes, both staffing and physical changes to the hospital, made to the Gove District Hospital to accommodate COVID patients over the past 12 months.

- A small demountable building has been positioned at the front entrance for COVID screening
- Increased nursing staff across a range of areas
- Additional staffing to manage increased cleaning requirements associated with COVID.
- Increased administration officers to cover screening functions at entrance of the facility.

**9. Are all Northern Territory public hospitals capable of treating patients who are COVID positive?
Please provide details of which hospitals can or cannot treat COVID positive patients.**

Yes.

10. How many COVID patients is each Northern Territory hospital able to treat?

The capacity across each hospital for treating COVID-19 positive patients varies depending on the local context at a particular time.

The NT has the necessary beds, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity, ventilators and negative pressure rooms to appropriately care for COVID positive patients with strong infection control protocols.

11. How many Intensive Care Unit beds are available throughout the Northern Territory public hospital system available to treat COVID positive patients? Please provide details of which hospitals and how many Intensive Care Unit beds at each hospital are available.

Alice Springs Hospital – total capacity 10

Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospital (RDPH) – total capacity 27

National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre has additional resources that can be requested through a national process.

12. What other acute hospital services in the Royal Darwin Hospital have been cut or reduced over the past 12 months to accommodate the growing demand from COVID positive patients?

Non-urgent elective surgery has been deferred.

13. What other acute hospital services in the Palmerston Regional Hospital have been cut or reduced over the past 12 months to accommodate the growing demand from COVID positive patients?

Nil.

14. What other acute hospital services in the Alice Springs Hospital have been cut or reduced over the past 12 months to accommodate the growing demand from COVID positive patients?

Reduced elective surgery focusing on category 1 and emergency.

15. What other acute hospital services in the Tennant Creek Hospital have been cut or reduced over the past 12 months to accommodate the growing demand from COVID positive patients?

Acute bed capacity has reduced from fourteen acute adult beds and six acute paediatric beds to six acute beds for adults and paediatrics.

- 16. What other acute hospital services in the Katherine District Hospital have been cut or reduced over the past 12 months to accommodate the growing demand from COVID positive patients?**

Reduced elective surgery focusing on category 1.

- 17. What other acute hospital services in the Gove District Hospital have been cut or reduced over the past 12 months to accommodate the growing demand from COVID positive patients?**

Some elective surgeries deferred at some periods. Minimal impact to other acute services.