

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Health:

NICU and Paediatric Ward at Royal Darwin Hospital

- 1. How many staff positions are vacant in the Paediatric ward at Royal Darwin Hospital?**

There are two Paediatric wards at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH):

- Ward 5A has (3.4) vacant FTE positions
- Ward 5B has (2.0) vacant FTE positions.

- 2. How many staff positions are vacant in the NICU ward at Royal Darwin Hospital?**

The RDH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) currently has (2.0) vacant FTE.

- 3. How many times in the past year has a patient been denied or delayed transfer from the NICU to the Paediatric ward? For each delay, what was the length of time the patient waited before being transferred?**

Patients are not denied transfer from NICU to the paediatric wards.

The decision to transfer is based on the individual clinical needs of the patient and their family to ensure they are cared for in an environment that has the most appropriate resources to meet their needs.

Transfers are usually planned in advance by both clinical areas to ensure a safe transition and handover process.

On occasion a transfer may be postponed by a day due to capacity issues in the receiving ward, however this is rare and occurs to maintain patient safety and optimal time of transfer.

In the last 12 months there was one occasion where a child's transfer was delayed by approximately one week.