

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Health

Government and Non-Government Managed Community Health Centres

1. Could you explain what non-government and government managed rural health community centres are and how many of each there are and who funds them?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Government (NTG) manages 62 remote/rural community health centres within the Northern Territory. These centres are staffed by employees of the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS), and in most cases the buildings are owned, and operational costs are covered by, the NTG.

In addition there are 31 health centres in communities within the Northern Territory which are managed by non-government organisations (NGO). Where a health centre is managed by an NGO, it may also have DHCS nursing staff contracted to the organisation, and may also receive additional funding to employ staff or special purpose grant funding. These organisations include Katherine West Health Board, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Sunrise Health Service, and Anyinginyi Congress. These organisations are co-funded by the Australian Government through funding bodies such as the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, the NTG and through their organisations.

Non-government managed health clinics have occurred where an Aboriginal organisation and the community decided to manage or auspice their own health service.

DHCS is involved in all community health centres throughout the Northern Territory in some way, through staffing, management, funding or grant funding.