

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

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Family and Community Services

Mental Health Courses

Minister on 18 February 2005 Minister Toyne in a press release titled 'Nurse Recruitment Campaign', talked about how 'courses including Mental Health...will be offered to nurses...for the first time in 2005:

1. Minister could you provide details on this course.

ANSWER

The course referred to in Minister Toyne's press release is the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health, which commenced at Charles Darwin University (CDU) in March 2005.

The course provides graduates with a comprehensive and advanced level of knowledge to safely and competently practice in diverse settings.

The course is divided into nursing and allied health streams and participants may study areas such as mental health, renal health and alcohol and other drugs.

Prior to the commencement of this course, students undertaking study in this field had to enrol in courses available interstate. So far, 17 students have enrolled in this course, 15 of these being Northern Territory nurses.

The support scheme for nurses studying at CDU referred to in the media release is the Department of Health and Community Services 'Study Assistance Grants'. These grants provide assistance to people in the Northern Territory Health and Community Services industry to develop skills and obtain qualifications. This study assistance is targeted towards current skills gaps in health and community services, particularly nursing.

Nurses and allied health staff employed in Mental Health Services are encouraged and supported financially to undertake postgraduate study at CDU or, if they choose to do so, at other institutions around Australia offering similar courses.