

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Health:

Alice Springs Hospital Medical Waste Disposal

- 1. Please describe the levels and types of medical waste generated by the Alice Springs Hospital.**

Levels of medical waste 2017-18: 3033 x 240 litre bins

Alice Springs Hospital medical waste types:

- Anatomical waste
- Clinical waste
- Pharmaceutical waste
- Sharps waste
- Cytotoxic waste

- 2. How is medical waste classified and disposed of by the Alice Springs Hospital?**

Classification - Medical Waste Management Central Australia Health Service guideline:

Preferred Term	Description
Anatomical Waste	Recognisable organs, bones and gross body parts such as limbs/digits.
Clinical waste	Waste that has the potential to cause sharps injury, infection or public offence eg: discarded sharps, human tissue and materials with expressible blood.
Cytotoxic waste	Waste that is generated by the use of antineoplastic drugs, intended for treatment of cancer, but not limited to.
Pharmaceutical	Excluding cytotoxic waste, may include expired pharmaceuticals, those from contaminated packaging, patient returns or waste generated during the manufacture and administration of pharmaceuticals.
Sharps waste	Equipment that has points, edges or protuberances that is capable of penetrating or piercing the skin.

All medical waste is collected daily from Alice Springs Hospital and transported to South Australia for incineration.

3. What contracts are in place to dispose of medical waste generated by the Alice Springs Hospital?

A cross government contract is in place for medical waste collection and disposal services.

4. Please provide details of these medical waste disposal contracts in place for the Alice Springs Hospital.

Service Provider:

Transpacific Cleanaway Pty Ltd.

Scope of Service:

Daily collection of 240 litre bins of medical waste from dedicated disposal areas throughout Alice Springs Hospital and weekly transport to Veolia Waste Management depot in South Australia for incineration.

5. Is any medical waste generated by the Alice Springs Hospital currently being disposed of at the Alice Springs Landfill?

No

6. Is any medical waste generated by the Alice Springs Hospital transferred interstate for disposal? If so, please provide details.

The medical waste is transported to South Australia for incineration.

7. Is any medical waste generated by the Alice Springs Hospital transferred for disposal in Darwin? If so, please provide details.

No

8. What is the cost of disposing of different types of medical waste generated by the Alice Springs Hospital? Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

\$478 989 in the 2017-18 financial year

9. When did the Alice Springs Hospital cease burning medical waste on site?

Incineration on site at the Alice Springs Hospital ceased in the mid to late 80s.

10. What disposal strategies and options have been used since the Alice Springs Hospital ceased burning the medical waste it generated?

Medical waste has been collected and disposed of through contracts with external providers.