

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Health:

Library Health Services

On Thursday 13 June 2019 in Budget Estimates hearings, you said in relation to Library Health Services that you were “looking at an alternative model to deliver those services”.

1. What “alternative models” is the NT Government considering?

A process is currently underway to determine a suitable alternative Health Library Services delivery model option that continues to support the NT as a leader in health related science and research. Options including a partnership model will be considered. The recommended model will be sustainable and capable of meeting the current and emerging needs of NT based health professionals, researchers and students.

2. Are you intending to close the Library Health Services, including 5 libraries across the Northern Territory?

No decision has been made to close any of the libraries. NT Health is currently investigating sustainable alternate business models for delivering contemporary Health Library Services.

3. What will happen to the huge amount of resources these libraries contain, if you close these 5 libraries?

The resources within the NT Health library collections will be required to continue to be available through contemporary mediums in order to meet accreditation requirements. The Library Collection Development Policy prioritises electronic resources and on-line resource accessibility to clients across the Territory. This will continue to grow as more electronic versions become available from vendors noting the historical collection of NT Health published works will be fully digitised by 31 December 2019.

4. What will happen to the staff of these libraries if you close them?

No decision has been made to close any of the libraries.

5. What will be the savings to the Government by these services closing?

There are currently no plans to close the Health Library Services.

6. What are the cuts to Library Health Services made in the 2019 Budget?

There is a budgeted saving of \$600 000 to be realised in 2019-20. Work is currently underway to consider alternate contemporary business models to deliver the proposed savings.

7. What services will be cut in Library Health Services in 2019/20?

There are no plans to cut services provided by Health Library Services in 2019-20. Health Library Services will continue to actively assess and manage resource usage and return on investment to ensure services are delivered effectively and efficiently to its client base.