

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Bill Yan to the Minister for Health:

Howard Springs Quarantine Facility Capacity Increase

Questions:

Following the announcement that the Commonwealth Government has reached an agreement with the NT Government to more than double the current capacity of the international wing of Howard Springs, can you please advise:

1. What infrastructure upgrades will be required to increase the capacity from 850 to 2,000 by May 2021?

Infrastructure works to support the expansion include:

- Conversion of some existing rooms into family rooms & mobility assisted rooms;
- Activation of offline rooms;
- Lighting upgrades;
- Increase in CCTV;
- Additional pathways;
- Additional office space; and
- Upgrades to existing Wi-Fi system.

2. Will the existing contracts in place with Northern Rise Village Services, Karen Sheldon and Wilson Security be sufficient for the newly increased capacity?

Contracts to support quarantine arrangements at the Centre are being reviewed as part of the expansion.

3. What upgrades, other than infrastructure upgrades, will be required?

There will be a requirement to upgrade office equipment and ICT to support expanded operations.

4. Will there be any cost to the Northern Territory in increasing the capacity?

No. Costs associated with the National Repatriation Program are funded by the Commonwealth Government under the Bilateral Agreement 'The Provision of Covid-19 Quarantine Arrangements at the Northern Territory Centre for National Resilience for National Repatriation of Australians'.

5. How will any additional costs be split between the Territory and the Commonwealth?

As above.

6. Will there be additional COVID-19 Vaccinations provided for the increased capacity?

Yes. There will be vaccination available for all new staff members.