



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 96

WRITTEN QUESTION

K McNamara to the Minister for Disability, Hon Jinson Charls MLA:

Death in custody of a man with disabilities

There has been a large community outcry about the death of, Kumanjayi White, a man with disabilities who was allegedly killed in police custody. The family and others in the community have been vocal in their questions and concerns about the level and appropriateness of his care. He was in residential care and on NDIS.

1. What investigations has the Department made into the care of Mr White?

The Department of People, Sport and Culture has not conducted any investigations into the care of Mr White. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is administered by the Australian Government through the National Disability Insurance Agency and the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission (NDIS Commission).

Following the transition to NDIS full scheme implementation in the Northern Territory which began in mid-2019, the NDIS Commission was also established. As an independent Australian Government agency, the NDIS Commission's primary role is to ensure that the safety, quality, and rights of NDIS participants are upheld. The NDIS Commission investigates reports of abuse, neglect, or other safety concerns involving NDIS participants.

2. Does the Department plan to do any future investigations?

As per the response to question 1, the Department of People, Sport and Culture is not undertaking any investigations as this is the responsibility of the NDIS Commission and the National Disability Insurance Agency.

3. Are there plans to look into the disability and care sector more broadly in the Northern Territory given the communities concerns about the low standards?

The Department of People, Sport and Culture is working at both the local and national level with colleagues to ensure best outcomes can be delivered for people with a disability in the Northern Territory.

There are considerable reforms occurring in the disability and care sector more broadly. The development of nationally consistent standards to be applied across the nation for foundational supports services and a renewed quality and safeguarding framework are two important policy pieces currently under development and are being led by the Australian Government.