



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 111

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Health, Hon Steven Edgington MLA:

Hospitals

1. What is the current average patient load per doctor, nurse, and social worker at Royal Darwin Hospital?
2. What concerns have hospital staff raised regarding their working conditions?
 - a. Please provide a breakdown of common complaints across major clinical backgrounds.
 - b. Please provide a brief outline of clear steps the government is taking to address these complaints.
3. What are the current staff turnover rates for doctors, nurses, social workers, and specialists at Royal Darwin Hospital, Alice Springs Hospital, and in regional and remote hospitals and clinics?
 - a. What percentage of each discipline leaves after less than 1 year, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, and 5 years at each hospital and clinic?
4. What is the estimated financial cost to the Northern Territory of this turnover?
 - a. If no estimate has been made, why not?
 - b. Are there any plans to model this cost in future? If not, why not?
5. What specific measures are being implemented to reduce turnover and improve staff retention?
 - a. How are these measures evaluated?
6. How are staff attraction and recruitment strategies being monitored and evaluated for effectiveness?
 - a. What have these evaluations found?
 - b. What plans are in place to respond to the findings of these evaluations and when?
7. What are the key factors contributing to delays in Emergency Departments across NT hospitals?

- a. For each hospital, what strategies are being implemented to address these pressures, and how is their effectiveness being evaluated?
8. On average, how many patients are waiting each 24 hour period in Emergency Departments due to a lack of available beds in the wards they require admission to?
9. What is the current average wait time in EDs for patients to receive treatment; what is the average time from admission to transfer out of ED? What is the longest wait time recorded in the current reporting period?
 - a. Please provide a specific breakdown for psychiatric patients?
10. What is the current 28-day hospital readmission rate for each NT hospital?
 - a. What are the key contributing factors, and what is the rate specifically for Aboriginal Territorians?
 - b. Please provide a specific breakdown for psychiatric patients?
11. What proportion of remote patients who are transferred to Darwin are being discharged into homelessness (i.e. the long grass)?
 - a. Please also provide data for Alice Springs and other regional centres.
12. What proportion of remote patients who are transferred to Darwin to houses at which they are visitors?
 - a. Please also provide data for Alice Springs and other regional centres.