



Territorians' health the focus of Darwin hearing

NT Parliament, Darwin — 23 August 2006

The Northern Territory has the highest average health expenditure per person and the highest annual growth in health expenditure in Australia. The House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee will be visiting the Northern Territory on Wednesday 23 August for the first time during its wide-ranging health funding inquiry.

The Northern Territory has a number of features that have a significant impact on the availability, funding and resourcing of its health services, including its demographics, labour market and the significant burden of disease borne by Indigenous Territorians.

At the public hearing the Committee will take evidence from the Northern Territory Department of Health. The Committee Chairman, Alex Somlyay said "The Committee welcomes the Northern Territory Government's contribution to the inquiry and looks forward to examining the issues raised in the Government's two submissions".

The Committee will also hear from RWM Consultancy, an experienced pharmaceutical consultancy in the Northern Territory and from Professor Lesley Barclay AO, the founder of a new School for Health Practice at Charles Darwin University. Also appearing today is the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance - a group seeking to improve the health of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory.

Mr Somlyay said that this public hearing will "provide an opportunity to speak with groups from the Northern Territory about the challenges facing the health system and give them an opportunity to put forward their view on how this system could be improved".

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

Venue: Litchfield Room, NT Parliament House, Darwin

The program for **Wednesday 23 August 2006** is as follows:

- 9.00am **Northern Territory Department of Health**
- 10.00am **RWM Consultancy**
- 11.00am **Professor Lesley Barclay, AO, Charles Darwin University**
- 11.45am **Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory**

For media interview with the Chairman:

Please contact Mr Somlyay's office on (07) 5471 6611.

For a copy of the terms of reference and further information on making a

submission: Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145, 0421 051 837 (mobile), or email haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/healthfunding/index.htm>