



Northern Territory-Report against Subacute Care Implementation Plan

**Summary of Progress**

There were some difficulties in meeting anticipated implementation dates largely due to recruitment complexities for specialists in particular and delays in capital works. Notwithstanding these issues all initiatives but for the establishment of a Geriatric Evaluation and Management Service, are largely on track and only slightly delayed if at all. Anticipate that the performance targets as outlined in the implementation plan will be met except for the GEM service which is dependant upon specialist recruitment.

Key Deliverables against States Implementation Plan	Timing	NPA funding	Comments
<b>Establishment of a psycho-geriatric service in the Northern Territory</b>	<p>Recruitment completed by December 2009.</p> <p>Service admission criteria, policies and procedures developed by December 2009.</p> <p>Psycho-geriatric service commences January 2010</p>	<p>\$1.374M</p> <p>3FTE specialist staff, visiting psycho geriatrician, some operational funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment action is complete. The position in Alice Springs will commence in late January 2010. The position in Darwin will commence in March 2010. A visiting psycho geriatrician has been contracted.</li> <li>Service admission criteria, policies and procedures are developed and awaiting final approval which will occur in January 2010.</li> <li>The service will commence in both Alice Springs and Darwin in late January 2010. The Darwin service will operate with alternative staffing arrangements until March 2010.</li> <li>The first consultations by the visiting psycho geriatrician will occur in Darwin during the last week in January 2010 and in Alice Springs during the first week in February 2010.</li> </ul>
<b>Establishing a Step-down Unit at the Royal Darwin Hospital.</b>	<p>Complete scope of works August 2009.</p> <p>Request for tender September 2009.</p> <p>Building works commenced Dec 2009.</p> <p>Step-down unit opened July 2010.</p>	<p>\$1.221M</p> <p>Bathroom renovations, additional Allied Health Staff, some operational funds, furniture and fittings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Development, Planning and Infrastructure has carriage of the renovation works and are currently preparing the request for tender due for release in January 2010.</li> <li>Allied Health staff have been recruited and additional equipment has been purchased. As soon as the renovations are complete, the step-down unit will be operational. This is still hoped to be July 2010.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Enhanced Hospital in the Home Program Alice Springs Hospital so that active and slow steam rehabilitation clients can be referred to the service</b></p>	<p>Recruitment of OT &amp; Physio has been completed.</p> <p>Purchase of equipment is being assessed.</p> <p>Referral to HITH Service polices and procedures have been completed.</p> <p>Service commences January 2010.</p>	<p>\$855K</p> <p>Additional Allied Health Staff, some operational funds and new equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recruitment process for 0.5 Physiotherapist has been completed, and commences in January 2010. The 1 FTE Aboriginal Health Worker recruitment has been unsuccessful. Now attempting to recruit a therapy assistant with the expectation that this position will be filled and have commenced by February 2010.</li> <li>• A real time muscle function ultra sound machine is being assessed for suitability.</li> <li>• Referral policies and procedures have been finalised and the service commences January 2010.</li> <li>• The Occupational Therapist has provided some services to rehabilitation in patients.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Establish a Geriatric Evaluation and Management Service at Royal Darwin Hospital</b></p>	<p>Recruitment completed December 2009.</p> <p>Service admission criteria, polices and procedures developed December 2009.</p> <p>GEM Services commenced January 2010.</p>	<p>\$331K</p> <p>Funding for 0.5FTE Geriatric Registrar to work with the Geriatrician.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A geriatric registrar could not be employed without supervision of a geriatric specialist. As an interim measure, a junior medical officer has been utilised to assist with subacute /geriatric patients under the supervision of rehabilitation team which will be an integral part of the subacute-geriatric unit. The GEM service has commenced in part with this strategy.</li> <li>• GEM care plan and service documentation completed but awaiting finalisation.</li> </ul>

Year	Patient type	Admitted	Non-admitted	Additional Comments
	Unit of measure for services	<i>Patient days</i>	<i>OOS</i>	Growth for July-December 2009 compared to the baseline cannot be calculated as they are of differing time periods.  However a numerical count of admitted and non-admitted services for the July-December 2009 period is presented below.
July-December 2009	Baseline data ( 2007-08 data)	7,939	7,802	
	Targeted growth for 2009-10	12%	0.5%	
	Growth in July-December 2009	See additional comments		

	Admitted (patient days)	Non-admitted
6 months ending December 2009	4, 184	4 ,929