



JUN 09 2016

MR. R.J. SIMPSON  
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH

**Oral Question 130-18(2): Hay River Family Support Centre**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on May 31, 2016 regarding the Hay River Family Support Centre.

At this time there is no formula in place for the funding of different family violence shelters across the territory. Annually we provide over \$2.5 million to shelters in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Department of Health and Social Services provides funding to the Health and Social Services Authorities who enter into contribution agreements with Non-Governmental Organizations to operate the shelters.

In February 2016 I met with representatives from a number of shelters, and we discussed a number of concerns, which included the need for a funding formula. I have committed to them that I would work with the shelters to develop a formula. Once we have transitioned into one Territorial Health and Social Services Authority we will move forward with the development of a formula for the funding of family violence shelters across the NWT. This will ensure they can continue to operate and provide important services to residents, which supports the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's priority to take action on the crisis of family and community violence.

Thank you.

Glen Abernethy  
Minister Health and Social Services

c. Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive