

# NT Mental Health NGO Sector – 2024 Election Asks

## Non Government Organisation Mental Health Sector Asks:

- **Delivery of a new NT Mental Health and Related Services Act** (including stakeholder engagement of a draft bill and proposed implementation and awareness raising of the bill)
- **Commitment to a Minister for Mental Health and Well Being**
- **Funding for an NT Lived experience network/peak body** (representing the collective experiences and perspectives of active services users and their family/kin)
- **Investment in Mental Health Workforce;**
  - Fund Cyclical and bespoke workplace initiatives
  - NT Lived experience workforce strategy
- **Support Closer to Home services** e.g “more Sub-Acute options and Safe Spaces”



**137,600**

Territorians are between the ages of 16 and 85 years



**51.7%**

or 71,000 Territorians (16-85 years) will experience a mental illness at some point during their lifetime



**28.8%**

or 29,600 Territorians (16-85 years) will experience mental illness during any given year<sup>1</sup>



**582**

NDIS participants in the NT have a primary disability related to their mental illness<sup>2</sup>

The Northern Territory recorded the highest number of Mental health patients per 1,000.

**24.6**



The Northern Territory has the highest rate of burden of disease in Australia. 1 Mental health conditions contribute:

**16.3%**

of the burden of disease in the NT<sup>4</sup>

compared with the national average of

**15.4**



compared nationally with

**7.4%**



There are only two lived experience positions in NT hospitals despite evidence to demonstrate peer workers have a 3:1 return on investment (for every \$1 spent, \$3 is saved).

The Northern Territory is the only state or territory government in Australia that does not recognise and support a ‘Consumer’ peak body<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/mental-health/national-study-mental-health-and-wellbeing/latest-release#prevalence-of-mental-disorders-by-state-and-territory>

<sup>2</sup>Quarterly Reports | NDIS

<sup>3</sup>state-and-territory-community-mental-health-care-2009-10.pdf (aihw.gov.au)

<sup>4</sup>Submission 408 - Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) - Mental Health - Public inquiry (pc.gov.au)