

COMMUNIQUE – MEETING No. 10 & 11 – 26th June & 28th August 2020

The 2020 meetings of the NT Clinical Senate were impacted by the global pandemic. Due to travel restrictions and physical distancing, meetings were decreased to two for the year and held online.

The NT Clinical Senate focused on the NT Response to COVID19. The keynote speakers, Dr Hugh Heggie, Dr Dianne Stephens, Dr John Boffa, Ms Kylee St George, Dr Charles Pain, Dr Samuel Goodwin, Dr Jane Davies, A/Prof Bhavini Patel and Ms Emily Mailes highlighted the success of the NT's response to the COVID19 pandemic. The mental health and wellbeing of people under quarantine and staff within the health service was noted as a potential major issues, but noted to have been actively managed by NT authorities and quarantine staff in the NT leading to the actions being identified as an exemplar across the country.

Dr Pain noted the NT local response to support the Aged Care Plan and the key areas of relationship and partnerships with local and Federal agency. He also shared the principals of management of remote communities and the importance of consistent communication.

A/Professor Patel discussed management of medication and the key principal of ensuring supply despite disruption of flights.

Senators debated the issues over the two meetings and developed a number of recommendations for the Chief Executive. Recommendations have been made in relation to continued training in the safe use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), staff wellness, timely turnaround for COVID tests, continued public information in relation to the pandemic, access to mental health wellness programs for people in quarantine and increased use of telehealth.