

## COMMUNIQUE – MEETING NO. 9: 5 – 6 December 2019

This meeting of the NT Clinical Senate focused on working across the NT health sector to develop a culture and practice of *First Do No Harm*. The keynote speaker, Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite, highlighted that after decades of improving the health care system, patients still receive care where rates of harm seem to have flat lined at around 10%.

Professor Braithwaite advocates for innovative solutions and reframes the safety issue – “*The amazing thing about health care isn’t that it produces adverse events in 10% of cases, but that it produces safe care in 90% of cases*”. He shared literature on how a more balanced approach to improving safety within health systems should include a focus on trying to make sure things go right (Safety II) not just trying to make sure things do not go wrong (Safety I).

Senators debated the issues and challenges over the 2 days of the meeting, with a particular focus on adding a Safety II model into our current Safety I framework. There was a focus on medication management. Other areas covered included acute care including overcrowding, and the increased morbidity and mortality this creates. Capacity within the acute care system is important to be able to support primary and community care. In addition, common themes emerged of cultural security, access to interpreters, the value of a culturally appropriate workforce and the benefits of effective case coordination.

Senators have developed a number of recommendations for the Chief Executive. Recommendations have been made in relation to: improving access to quality use of medicines support in the rural and remote sector; introducing the national Choosing Wisely Programme across the NT health system; and supporting the implementation of a culturally secure health system through improving access to interpreters, embedding cultural safety principles in daily work and developing mechanisms to ensure that the patient’s experience is captured.