

Your correspondence to Territory Alliance Leader Terry Mills has been brought to my attention today. We are a very small team that does not have the resources of Labor in Government nor the CLP in Opposition.

We are a grassroots based political movement that has quickly garnered the support of many Territorians. We are not entrenched party machinery. We sit in the sensible centre and are led by three very experienced members of Parliament.

We endeavour to respond to all correspondence in a timely manner, so my apologies for the delay.

In regard to your correspondence of 30 July 2020 I can provide the following response on behalf of Territory Alliance:

Territory Alliance is committed to the ongoing support for Occupational Therapists to access funding support as both professionals and business owners, as we recognise the crucial role OTs provide in allied health services for the injured, people with a disability and elderly in particular.

We are pleased to confirm our commitment that the important role of OTs will continue to be recognised through the Department of Education; Territory Families; Department of Justice and Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

Further, Territory Alliance recognises the NDIS funding failure in the Northern Territory and refer you to our commitments in the Health focus policy position paper. We believe that a genuine focus on increasing NDIS funding in the Territory will ensure the growth and sustainability of Occupational Therapists in the Territory.

The recruitment and retention of Occupational Therapists in the Territory has been an ongoing concern and we recognise that Government has an important role to play in identifying skills shortages and encouraging the best jobs pathways. The issue is one that we would encourage being addressed through our Territory Skills Commission.

The recommendation to establish an internal Occupational Therapy role within the Department of Housing is imminently sensible and supported.

Finally, included in our Health policy position paper is our deep commitment to work with the Commonwealth Government to improve resources for the woefully underfunded government and non-government agencies that are grappling to support Territorians who are in need of mental health services.

Again, thank you for your correspondence and apologies for the delay in our response.

Kind regards,

Delia Lawrie