

Ms Michele Goldman  
Asthma Australia  
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cc. [ceo@asthmant.org.au](mailto:ceo@asthmant.org.au)

Dear Ms Goldman

**Re: Australian Government funding for Asthma Foundation of the Northern Territory**

NT Health has been advised that the Asthma Foundation of the Northern Territory (AFNT) has received diminishing funding through Asthma Australia over recent years. NT Health understands that Asthma Australia is responsible for the distribution of the annual budget of \$2.1 million for the Australian Government's Asthma Management Program.

NT Health values the partnerships and support provided by the Australian Government, its agencies and partners in delivering better health for Territorians. Specific to the Northern Territory (NT), factors such as a large land mass, remoteness and a small, highly distributed and culturally diverse population are challenges faced by services providers.

AFNT has provided services to Territorians for forty years delivering culturally safe and responsive care for clients across the NT. AFNT is a valued member of the health sector, working closely with respiratory physicians and providing support and education to clients and their families. In addition to programs, AFNT provides training and education for health professionals and delivers an important spirometry service for the diagnosis and management of asthma.

AFNT has reported a significant increase in demand for services since the COVID-19 pandemic, including an approximate 30 percent increase in referrals for spirometry testing this year alone. NT Health resources AFNT for a portion of services, but consistent Australian Government support is also needed. NT Health is supportive of AFNT's request for continued Australian Government sourced funding to ensure the sustainability of services for Territorians living with asthma and related conditions.

If you wish to discuss these matters further, please contact A/Director Chronic Conditions and Prevention, Kate Race on 08 8985 8176.

Yours sincerely



Tamsin Cockayne  
Executive Director Strategy Planning and Reform  
08 March 2023