# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 2089**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 27 MAY 2022**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 20)**

**Mrs M O Clarke (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(a) What is the budget allocation for the Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) services in the Republic, (b) how is the budget calculated for the specified services, (c) on what basis does a clinic turn away TOP patients, (d) what is the current backlog of TOPs, (e) what training is provided to staff to properly handle and support TOP patients, (f) what is the staff vacancy rate for those who conduct TOP services, (g) what is the breakdown of staff vacancies in this regard in each province, (h) what is his department doing to address the unwillingness of medical practitioners to perform TOP services thus creating a barrier to the services, (i) what total number of TOPs have been performed in the past five years and (j) what is the breakdown of the TOPs that were performed in each province?

###### NW2492E

**REPLY:**

(a) There is no specific budget allocated for termination of pregnancy services, however the services are covered under Equitable Share

(b) There is no specific budget calculation for termination of pregnancy, the service/program is not a stand-alone programme it falls within the Women, Maternal and Reproductive Health at all level of care, therefore the calculation is done under Equitable share budget.

(c) The clinic cannot turn away the clients however; clinic can only refer clients on the following basis:

* 1. If there is no one trained and providing the termination of pregnancy services in a facility; the health care workers, don’t turn them away BUT refer clients where services are rendered
	2. If the client is above 12 weeks, and there is no Doctor who can provide the above 12 weeks’ cases in a facility as stipulated in the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 92 of 1996, then the client can be referred to next level of care where second trimester termination of pregnancy is offered;
	3. If the client is above 20 weeks, however the client can be counselled on pregnancy resolutions e.g. adoption etc.

(d) The National Department of Health did not receive reports from provinces indicating challenges related to backlog on termination of pregnancy

(e) The National Department of Health has developed the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Training Package/Curriculum consisting of 14 modules.

1. Module one is compulsory and covers value clarification and mind transformation and

2. Module 7 is a specific module for termination of pregnancy (theory and practical session).

(f)-(g) *Staff vacancy rate*. The Department do not have the vacancy rate specific for termination of pregnancy however the service is being rendered under Women, Maternal and Reproductive Health programme. There is no breakdown of vacancies because termination of pregnancy is not a standalone programme it is offered under the Women, Maternal and Reproductive Health programme.

(h) The Department Conduct Value Clarification and mind transformation workshop to address unwillingness and negative attitude of the health care workers at all levels of care. Choice on termination of pregnancy guidelines (2019) provides guidance to managers, frontline workers and service users to respond to issues on conscientious objection which is described as blocking access to care .

(i)-(j) The following table reflects the details in this regard.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Year** | **Total number of TOP’s performed in the last five years per province and National** |  |
| **Province****(i)** | **South Africa (National)****(j)** |
| **Eastern Cape** | **Free State** | **Gauteng** | **KwaZulu-Natal** | **Limpopo** | **Mpuma-langa** | **Northern Cape** | **North West** | **Western Cape** |
| 2017 | 9,905 | 5,397 | 11,929 | 17,700 | 6,703 | 3,080 | 1,149 | 4,859 | 15,415 | 76,137 |
| 2018 | 14,130 | 7,404 | 18,827 | 27,032 | 11,297 | 5,738 | 1,671 | 7,840 | 18,785 | 112,724 |
| 2019 | 13,342 | 7,666 | 19,881 | 28,344 | 14,323 | 7,584 | 1,533 | 9,557 | 18,831 | 121,061 |
| 2020 | 10,922 | 7,242 | 23,338 | 22,399 | 14,494 | 4,449 | 1,337 | 8,325 | 17,209 | 109,715 |
| 2021 | 12,118 | 7,617 | 25,827 | 23,688 | 13,828 | 5,014 | 1,705 | 9,002 | 16,129 | 114,928 |
| Source DHIS  |

END.