

MENTAL HEALTH UNIT — MIDWEST REGION

**43. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Minister for Mental Health:**

I refer to recent advice provided by the Minister for Mental Health in the Legislative Assembly grievance debate on 9 May 2013 that work has been done showing that a specialist mental health inpatient unit of up to 40 beds is required for the midwest region by 2020–21.

- (1) When and by whom was this work done?
- (2) Are the details of this work publicly available?
- (3) If yes to (2), where can it be found; and, if not, why not?
- (4) Has similar planning been done to assess the requirements for specialist mental health inpatient beds in Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie and Broome post-2020?
- (5) Will the minister table any advice she has in this regard; and, if not, why not?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(3) The forecasting for an inpatient mental health facility was completed in January 2013 by the WA Country Health Service. It was done to inform both future planning needs and also budget submissions. Geraldton, in the midwest region, is the only regional centre that does not have access to an inpatient mental health service at the moment. Given that the Broome facility was built to accommodate both the Pilbara and Kimberley services, we have made commitments to build a step-down facility in the Pilbara area. All the other regions have specialist and authorised mental health beds. The situation in Geraldton is a little unique. As a result of that, the staff who work with the WA Country Health Service up there have developed one of the best capacities of managing people with acute mental illness in the community. I commend the work of the staff who work for the community mental health service and the WA Country Health Service in the midwest region. They do an absolutely fantastic job.
- (4) The future mental health inpatient bed requirements for public hospitals are outlined in the “WA Health Clinical Services Framework 2010–2020”, which is publicly available. The clinical services framework is reviewed regularly, and is next due for review later in 2013, after September, when the new Australian Bureau of Statistics population figures are available.
- (5) Given that this advice was taken for a budget submission, the answer to that question is no.