

BUNBURY HOSPITAL, PSYCHIATRIC UNIT

732. Hon Barry House to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health
- (1) Can the Minister assure South West residents that the Psychiatric Unit of the Bunbury Hospital is fully staffed and able to handle any call for help?
 - (2) If not, why not?
 - (3) When will the unit be fully staffed and fully operational?
 - (4) What is the current staffing level and what is the required staffing level to enable the Psychiatric Unit to operate to capacity?
 - (5) What were the staffing levels at the unit in -
 - (a) 1998;
 - (b) 2000; and
 - (c) 2002?
 - (6) How many people sought admission to the unit in -
 - (a) 1998;
 - (b) 2000; and
 - (c) 2002?
 - (7) How many were turned away, or forced to travel to Perth for treatment?
 - (8) Why did the Government offer only a 12 month contract to an established, competent and well-known health professional to work in Bunbury when its labour relations policy encourages long-term, awards-based employment in the City?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

1. The unit is not fully staffed at present. Patient management is determined and appropriate referral takes place to Perth based on available resources and patient acuity.
2. The key factor inhibiting the full staffing and operation of the unit has been the availability of psychiatrists and supporting medical staff.
3. The unit can be fully operational when there are sufficient psychiatrists to cover the on duty and on call requirements for the unit.
4. The current staffing level is: 1 FTE Psychiatrist, 13 FTE Nursing, 1 Nurse Therapist, 1 OT Assistant. Full operational staffing will require the availability of an additional Psychiatrist to participate in the on call roster; 1 FTE Medical Officer, 6 FTE Nurses, 1 Social Worker, 1 Occupational Therapist and 0.5 Clinical Psychologist is required to make the unit fully operational
5.
 - (a) N/a not operational
 - (b) 2000 – 25.94 FTE
 - (c) 2002 – 26.59 FTE
6.
 - (a) N/a not operational
 - (b) 2000 – 314 Admissions
 - (c) 2002 – 175 Admissions
7. Current information systems are unable to provide accurate data on this question
8. No 12 month contract of service has been issued from Bunbury.