

SOUTH WEST HEALTH CAMPUS — PSYCHIATRIC WARD

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

I ask this question on behalf of Hon Adele Farina, who is away on urgent parliamentary business. I refer to the psychiatric ward at South West Health Campus.

How many 16 and 17-year-olds have been admitted to the psychiatric ward in —

- (a) 2010;
- (b) 2011; and
- (c) 2012, to date?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for asking this question on behalf of Hon Adele Farina. I would like to give some additional information to the response I have, which is —

- (a) one, a 17-year-old;
- (b) one, a 17-year-old; and
- (c) one, a 17-year-old.

Over each of those three years one person who was under the age of 18 was admitted to an adult ward. As I have indicated on previous occasions, consideration has to be given at the time to whether it is more appropriate to provide that inpatient care in a local setting where there is no specialist child and adolescent mental health inpatient unit with the extra support and services provided around a person of that nature in an adult setting or whether it is better to move that person away to a specialist child and adolescent inpatient unit in the metropolitan area. Obviously in these three cases over three years it was determined that it was more appropriate for these 17-year-olds to be admitted to the adult ward. No 16-year-olds were admitted during these periods. A comprehensive clinical assessment is always undertaken prior to admitting a young person to an adult mental health unit, ensuring that they get care closer to home and will remain connected with their family. All attempts to assess other options for 16 and 17-year-olds are always explored before an admission to an adult mental health inpatient unit is undertaken.