

MENTAL HEALTH - WAITING LIST FOR BEDS, TREATMENT AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH

2757. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

- (1) How many mental health patients are currently awaiting a bed in the public health system?
- (2) Of those people, how many are involuntary patients?
- (3) What is the current average wait for -
  - (a) admission to hospital;
  - (b) treatment; and
  - (c) professional help,for patients requiring assistance due to mental health issues?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

- (1)-(3) All mental health patients presenting as requiring emergency treatment are admitted to hospital within 24 hours.

Some mental health patients cared for in the community are assessed as potentially benefiting for a period of inpatient treatment. Those assessed as potentially benefiting from inpatient care are admitted to hospital.

As at 24 February 2006, there were 17 involuntary patients in community care who were assessed as potentially benefiting from inpatient treatment. It should be noted that some of these patients assessed as potentially benefiting from inpatient treatment, are subject to a Community Treatment Order (CTO); for these patients, the assessment of inpatient treatment may have resulted from a breach of the CTO and not necessarily for clinical reasons.