

KALAMUNDA CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE, CLOSURE

532. Mr J.H.D. Day to the Minister for Health

With reference to the Kalamunda Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMS), located in High Wycombe I ask -

- (a) is CAMS currently closed;
- (b) for how long has CAMS been closed;
- (c) why has CAMS been closed;
- (d) when will CAMS be reopening;
- (e) what action is the Government taking to ensure CAMS will be re-opening at its previous staffing strength; and
- (f) will the Minister give an assurance that CAMS will be re-opened at its previous staffing strength?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) No, Kalamunda Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service is not currently closed. The service has been temporarily relocated to another facility. An expanded service is being provided from the Swan Valley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service facility.
- (b) The temporary relocation of the service commenced 27 September 2002.
- (c) The temporary relocation of the service was necessary due to staff shortages and difficulties recruiting new staff to the positions. Difficulties securing new staff are created by the isolation of the service from professional support.
- (d) Service provided from the Warbler Court location will recommence upon the appointment of staff into the vacant positions of Clinical Psychologist, Social Worker and Clinical Nurse Specialist.
- (e) The Kalamunda Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and the Swan Valley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service have been professionally combined. The improved access to professional development, supervision, clinical support and links to a more comprehensive service at Swan Valley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service will make the positions more attractive to potential applicants. Recruitment and Selection processes are under way to appoint staff to the vacant positions.
- (f) An improved service will be provided from the Warbler Court location upon the appointment of staff into the vacant positions of Clinical Psychologist, Social Worker and Clinical Nurse Specialist. With the improved links to Swan Valley Child and Adolescent Mental Health clients of Kalamunda Child and Adolescent Mental Health will have access to a greater range of specialised practitioners. It is not possible to guarantee that applicants for the positions will be forthcoming, however every endeavour will be made to secure staff to fill these vacancies.