

HOSPITALS, COMPLAINTS OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE BY STAFF

226. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health

(1) How many complaints, if any, of

(a) physical; and

(b) sexual abuse,

of patients by public hospital staff were lodged in -

(i) 1998

(ii) 1999

(iii) 2000

(iv) 2001 and

(v) so far in 2002?

(2) With regard to (1) (a) how many complaints were investigated and how many staff were disciplined?

(3) With regard to (1) (b) how many staff were investigated and how many staff were disciplined?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

NORTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

1. (a) (i) 0
(ii) 1
(iii) 1
(iv) 0
(v) 0

(b) (i) 0
(ii) 0
(iii) 2
(iv) 0
(v) 0

2. All investigated. None substantiated.

3. All investigated by police. One not substantiated. One resulted in disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

Osborne Park Hospital

1. (a) (i) 0
(ii) 0
(iii) 0
(iv) 0
(v) 0

(b) (i) 1
(ii) 0
(iii) 0
(iv) 0
(v) 0

2. Not applicable.

3. Complaint investigated. Not substantiated.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE

Fremantle Hospital and Health Service

1. (a) (i) 0
(ii) 0
(iii) 0
(iv) 0
(v) 0

(b) (i) 0

- (ii) 0
- (iii) 0
- (iv) 1
- (v) 0

2. Not applicable.
3. One female patient alleged that a male staff member at Fremantle Hospital and Health Service, Mental Health Services had a sexual relationship with her in July 2000. By the time the female patient made this allegation the male staff member had left the State. No formal complaint was made by the female patient and the matter was referred to the Nurses Board.

Peel and Rockingham/Kwinana Health Service

1.
 - (a)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 1
 - (v) 0
 - (b)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 0
 - (v) 0
2. Only aware of one complaint at present which was an anonymous complaint from a person claiming they were a patient at Peel. The complaint included a statement that they had witnessed an incident of physical abuse by a staff member. The matter was investigated but as the complaint was anonymous and did not detail dates or times or identify the patient who was supposedly abused and the person making the complaint could not be identified, no action could be taken.
3. Not applicable.

Armadale Health Service

1.
 - (a) (i)-(v) Nil
 - (b) (i)-(v) Nil
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

EAST METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE

1.
 - (a)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 1 (Bentley Hospital)
 - (v) 1 (Bentley Hospital)
 - (b)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 0
 - (v) 0
2. Both investigated – staff member resigned prior to completion of investigation.
3. Not applicable.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICE

1.
 - (a)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 0
 - (v) 0
 - (b) (i) 0

- (ii) 0
- (iii) 0
- (iv) 2
- (v) 0

2. Not applicable.
3. One staff member was investigated. Discipline was not warranted.

COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICES:

Kimberley Region
Pilbara and Gascoyne Region
Midwest and Murchison Region
Goldfields and South West Coastal Region
Wheatbelt Region
Great Southern Region

1.
 - (a)
 - (i) 1
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 1
 - (v) 0
 - (b)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 1
 - (v) 0
2. Two complaints were investigated. Because of these investigations one staff member was dismissed and the other disciplined.
3. One complaint was investigated and claim was unsubstantiated, staff member was not disciplined.

SOUTH WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE

1.
 - (a)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 1
 - (iv) 1
 - (v) 0
 - (b)
 - (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
 - (iv) 0
 - (v) 0
2. 2 complaints investigated and 2 staff disciplined at Nannup Hospital.
3. Not applicable.