

HOSPITALS, BED CLOSURES

1266. Mr Bradshaw to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many beds are currently closed at each of the Tertiary and Secondary Public Hospitals in Perth and the Metropolitan area?
- (2) What plans are there to allocate staff to open up these beds?

Mr KUCERA replied:

Generally speaking the Department of Health funds hospitals on the basis of services to be provided, rather than beds. It is a local hospital management decision as to how many beds are in operation to meet the required funded workload. Total bed numbers quoted below are based on the number used by the hospital to provide the services that are funded.

King Edward Memorial Hospital

1. 6
2. No staff are available to open these beds.

Princess Margaret Hospital

1. 23
2. No staff are available to open these beds.

Royal Perth Hospital

1. 37
2. The VRE issue is impacting on current ability to open beds. Staffing will impact on availability to open any funded beds, once VRE issue is under control.

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

1. A total of 5 beds are currently closed on Ward G66. In addition, the hospital has recently reconfigured its available beds - 22 beds have been provided in a Care Awaiting Placement Unit located at Hollywood Private Hospital and a further 20 beds are now available in the General Medical Unit at Osborne Park Hospital. To compensate for these additional beds, 30 beds have been closed in Ward C14 and 10 beds have been closed in Ward G73. The latter beds are typically used only as winter overflow beds.
2. The 5 beds currently closed on Ward G66 will be opened as soon as appropriately qualified nurses can be recruited.

Fremantle Hospital

1. Nil. All budgeted beds are open.
2. Not applicable.

Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital

1. Nil. All budgeted beds are open.
2. It is anticipated that another 4 High Dependency beds will open in the acute adult mental health service in January 2002 following the arrival of the nursing staff from the UK.

Bentley Hospital

1. Nil. All budgeted beds are open.
2. There are no immediate plans to allocate staff to open extra beds. Bentley Health Service is not funded to provide additional beds.

Osborne Park Hospital

1. 51. The closure of beds occurred some years ago reflecting modern medicine's greater utilisation of procedures that do not require over-night stays or require shorter stays in hospitals. Space saved is utilised for other services.
2. There is no plan within the 2001/2002 operational budget to open these beds.

Kalamunda District Hospital

1. Nil.

2. Not applicable.

Swan District Hospital

1. 5 medical beds.

2. The opening of the beds will be determined by the ability of RPH to recruit a Registrar.

Rockingham Kwinana District Hospital

1. Nil.

2. Not applicable.

Murray District Hospital

1. Nil.

2. Not applicable.