

MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT UNIT, ALBANY — OCCUPANCY RATES

466. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:

- (1) How many beds are currently available in the specialist mental health inpatient unit in Albany?
- (2) What was the occupancy rate of these beds per month so far this year?
- (3) Are any of these beds classified as secure beds?
- (4) What specific provisions are made by this specialist unit for the admission of children or adolescents?
- (5) What facilities exist at this specialist unit for children and adolescents to be separated from adults?
- (6) How many children and adolescents have been admitted to the specialist unit in the past 12 months?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Albany mental health inpatient unit has a 16-bed capacity, with 12 beds currently open.
- (2) The occupancy is currently 90.5 per cent.
- (3) None of the 12 beds currently open for use are classified as “secure”.
- (4) Children and adolescents are admitted to the Albany Health Campus children’s ward wherever possible and/or appropriate. An adolescent may be admitted to the adult mental health inpatient unit if this is assessed by the admitting doctor as the most appropriate treatment setting and for the safety of the patient. Children requiring more specialist care than can be provided on the Albany Hospital’s children’s ward are managed locally until acceptance of referral to tertiary treatment in Perth in appropriate settings, such as the Bentley adolescent unit or at Princess Margaret Hospital.
- (5) If an adolescent is admitted to the adult mental health inpatient unit, one-on-one specialising is provided to ensure the safety of the patient. The guardian or parent must consent to the admission. Review occurs every 24 hours by a psychiatrist and a clear clinical management plan is in place. The adolescent is followed up by the child and adolescent mental health team.
- (6) Five adolescents have been admitted to the adult mental health inpatient unit in the last 12 months.