

HONEYBROOK LODGE, CLOSURE

2775. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for Health

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Honeybrook Lodge, a designated psychiatric lodge in Midland, risks closing down because of ever increasing and time consuming Health Department regulatory requirements, without any increase in payments to fund these requirements?
- (2) As an example, will the Minister explain why it is necessary for the managers of Honeybrook Lodge to provide specific details of each ingredient used in every meal served there?
- (3) Does the Minister agree that this is not a health requirement for other facilities, such as cafes and restaurants, where meals are prepared on a commercial basis?
- (4) What is the current State Government funding payment to facilities such as Honeybrook Lodge?
- (5) Will the Minister advise if this payment is increased in line with the Consumer Price Index?
- (6) If not, when was the payment last increased?
- (7) Is the Minister aware that if Honeybrook Lodge had to close, there are no alternative accommodation options available to some of its residents?
- (8) Does the Minister agree that people in this situation could end up in a hospital bed and place further pressure on hospitals?
- (9) What will the Minister do to assist the managers of Honeybrook Lodge?
- (10) Will the Minister visit Honeybrook Lodge and talk to the people managing this residential facility about the problems they are facing?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (1) Honeybrook Lodge is a licensed private psychiatric hostel which must meet the requirements of the Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927 (the Act) and the Hospitals (Licensing and Conduct of Private Psychiatric Hostels) Regulations 1997 (Regulations). Following an extensive consultation process, Standards consistent with the Regulations were finalised in 2003. All licensed hostels are required to meet these Standards.
- (2) The licence holders of private psychiatric hostels are required to meet Regulation 10(a) of the Regulations, which states "food is supplied in such quantities that the dietary allowances recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council are provided by that food". Standard 9 deals with Food Safety. The relevant minimum criterion states "recipes are available for all meal components and include all ingredients and portion sizes".
- (3) The requirements of the Act, Regulations and Standards aim to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of residents of private psychiatric hostels is maintained.
- (4) Licensed Private Psychiatric Hostels are paid a subsidy per eligible resident that varies according to the classification of a Licensed Private Psychiatric Hostel and the assessed level of care required of each resident. The current subsidy levels per resident for Honeybrook Lodge are: Level 1 is \$5.52 per day; Level 2 is \$7.30 per day; Level 3 is \$9.20 per day; and Level 4 is \$11.09 per day.
- (5) An increase in subsidy level for indexation is considered each year in the State Budget.
- (6) A twenty percent increase in subsidy levels was provided from 1 October 2001.
- (7) If a Hostel proprietor advises that he/she wishes to close a facility, the "Unplanned Closure of Licensed Psychiatric Hostels Strategy" is initiated. Unoccupied beds in other facilities are used to relocate residents.
- (8) Hospitalisation of hostel residents would only be required if the resident was in need of hospital care.
- (9) Advice, support and training are offered to hostel proprietors and staff to assist them in meeting their legislative requirements.
- (10) Officers from the Licensing Standards and Review Unit make regular visits to hostels including Honeybrook Lodge to discuss problems they may be facing.