

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES — PEEL REGION

Statement by Member for Mandurah

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.53 pm]: I use this opportunity to raise a number of mental health concerns in the Peel region as highlighted in a letter to me from local Mandurah resident Mrs A. McKenna. I quote her concerns as raised in the letter —

(1) There are still no 7 day a week Mental Health Services in the Peel region. No services exist at all on week-ends until the Mental Health Emergency Response Line come on board at 3 pm on a Saturday and Sunday.

(2) There is a great need for a Step Down Facility and for an Assertive Community Team.

The Step Down Facility is a step away from hospital into a residential facility where the individual is encouraged and assisted to become independent.

The Assertive Community Team assists the recently discharged with daily contact and with medications etc.

Our neighbouring city of Rockingham with a population of approx 90,000 has both.

Mandurah with a record growth of approx 5% or 72,000 population has neither.

It is perhaps still being regarded as the...“fishing village week-ender of old” rather than the second best liveable city with a burgeoning community.

Both the Chief Psychiatrist and the Minister for Mental Health agree there is a need of these in the Peel region.

In his reply to me of the 28th July 2011 Dr Davidson states...“the State Government recognises that the URGENT ... priority in Western Australia is to improve the way in which individualised care is provided and co-ordinated for people ...

Similarly in her reply of the 25th July 2011 Minister Morton states...“rehabilitation is best managed in a rehabilitation facility or through a dedicated team and the Peel Mental Health Service has identified this as a need...unfortunately neither of these options are presently available in Peel and I agree with you that there needs to be more done in this area”.

This is an important issue for people in Peel. We urgently need the services that Mrs McKenna has outlined in her letter; and we should have them, given our population growth and demographics.