

BUNBURY REGIONAL HOSPITAL — MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

4890. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health

In relation to the provision of mental health services in the emergency department at the Bunbury Regional Hospital, I ask:

- (a) other than general practitioners, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are appointed at the Bunbury Regional Hospital for:
 - (i) doctors specialising in mental health;
 - (ii) psychiatrists; and
 - (iii) psychologists;
- (b) how many doctors who specialise in mental health, psychiatrists or psychologists are rostered on duty in the emergency department between 11.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m.;
- (c) are there any nurses specialising in mental health working at the Bunbury Regional Hospital; and
 - (i) if so, how many, and are they rostered to work in the emergency department;
- (d) what is the annual budget for staff rostered to work in the emergency department;
- (e) what portion of that budget is dedicated to having mental health professionals work in the emergency department; and
- (f) what is the procedure for a mental health patient who presents to the emergency department for treatment?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (a) Whilst there are no dedicated Emergency Department (ED) FTE Consultant Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Medical Officer positions specifically employed to work in the Bunbury Hospital (BH) ED, an on-call model — with FTE from specialist Mental Health programs — exists to provide the following:
 - i. 1 on-call Psychiatric Medical Officer providing services to BH ED between 0700–2300 hrs.
 - ii. 1 on-call Consultant Psychiatrist providing services to BH ED between 0700–2300 hrs.
 - iii. there are no Psychologists providing on-call services to BH ED.
- (b) There are no specialist Mental Health medical staff rostered on duty for BH ED between 2300–0700 hrs. ED triage nurses and medical staff do however assess and admit mental health patients if they are deemed to be at risk.
- (c) Yes. There is 1 Specialist Mental Health Liaison Nurse (MHLN) rostered on every 8 hrs between 0700 and 2300 hrs.
- (d) The annual ED budget for BH is \$13 million.
- (e) The annual budget for MHLN and on-call Psych Medical services is \$410 000. This is funded separately by Mental Health Services.
- (f) The procedure for a mental health patient who presents to the ED for treatment is as follows:
 - a. Triage assessment by ED nurse with provision for identifying mental health risk for the patient.
 - b. Medical review by ED doctor to determine causality of symptoms. If specialist mental health assessment is required, the ED doctor will request MHLN services. Between 2300-0700 hrs, if mental health symptoms are identified as acute, the ED doctor will coordinate an overnight admission and ensure the patient is assessed by MHLN at 0700 hrs.
 - c. MHLN reviews the patient and coordinates either an admission to the Acute Psychiatric Unit (APU), a referral to the Community Mental Health services if non urgent, or a referral to a service that specialises in the problem area identified ie. Alcohol or Drug services