

MENTAL HEALTH — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

207. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to evidence provided to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations last week in relation to the recommendations from the Chief Psychiatrist's 2020 *Targeted review*. Two and a half years on, why is there still no funding to provide the three vital multidisciplinary community intensive treatment services recommended to reduce emergency department presentations and inpatient admissions?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I am very proud of this government's record on mental health. We have injected record funding into mental health services across the state—record funding. A range of work is occurring around emergency departments. We are prioritising those emergency department diversions, with the infant, child and adolescent task force to support children who are presenting with mental health issues and provide a more appropriate environment for them than an emergency department. I am absolutely proud of our record on mental health. We have a record increase in funding for mental health; we have started the journey on infant, child and adolescent reform for mental health for children and young people; and we had a significant uplift in staffing across our public mental health system over the last two years, directly with the child and adolescent mental health service and, in our regional centres, through the WA Country Health Service. We also run the emergency telehealth mental health service, CAMHS Crisis Connect, and a range of other important crisis services for children and adults in the mental health space.