

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES — CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

1091. Hon JOCK FERGUSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mental Health:

- (1) Can the minister confirm that mental health facilities at Armadale Health Service will be closed for one month over the Christmas period, including the outpatient rehabilitation service that provides suicide intervention services?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that the Mead Centre, which provides services for adult mental health outpatients, will be operating on a skeleton staff for the same period?
- (3) Can the minister provide details of the other mental health services that will be forced to close during the Christmas period to meet budget cuts?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) Mental health facilities at the Armadale Health Service campus have historically been reorganised to accommodate for staff leave over Christmas. Access to mental health services will not be reduced over the Christmas period. There will be a relocation of services from off-site facilities to the Armadale Health Service campus to ensure that community clients who require mental health services have access to a comprehensive multidisciplinary team. The Horizons Community Mental Health Rehabilitation Service facility will be closed from 14 December 2009 to 10 January 2010. These clients have case managers in the adult community mental health service, and any requirement for mental health intervention will be provided from the Mead Centre at the Armadale Mental Health Service campus. Suicide intervention services are not provided through the rehabilitation service. These services will be available from the Armadale Health Service campus as per usual practice.
- (2) The Mead Centre will remain open with a multidisciplinary team to provide continuum of care to the mental health clients within the catchment area of the mental health service—the Armadale Health Service. It will not be operating on skeleton staff. The regular staffing profile is 39.90 full-time equivalents. For the period 14 December 2009 to 10 January 2010 there will be a minimum of 30.8 FTEs at any one time.
- (3) Historically mental health services, as with general health services, have been reorganised to provide care whilst recognising that this period is one in which many of our staff take leave. The reorganisation of services is undertaken annually with due care to maintain service provision to patients whilst being supportive of staff needs.