

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES — JOONDALUP HEALTH CAMPUS

553. Ms E.L. HAMILTON to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to providing world-class mental healthcare facilities.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of the new 102-bed mental health unit at Joondalup Health Campus?
- (2) Can the minister outline how the Cook Labor government is making sure that people in the northern suburbs can access world-class mental health care closer to home?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup for the question and her advocacy and support for best quality public health services in her electorate and the northern suburbs.

- (1)–(2) Mental health is a key priority for this government. In 2018, the Premier, as the former Minister for Health, opened the mental health observation area at Joondalup Health Campus, offering patients a quieter and less busy environment away from the main emergency department, which is often very confronting and not the best place for people experiencing mental health episodes. Since opening, the MOA has treated more than 20 000 patients, with around 60 per cent of those requiring inpatient admission. Five years on, we are growing Joondalup Health Campus to provide care closer to home for people who are experiencing mental health episodes. Last week, it was a great pleasure to join the Premier and a number of members representing seats in the northern suburbs to open the new 102-bed mental health unit at Joondalup Health Campus. It is a beautiful facility and a new benchmark in not only mental health provision but also public inpatient mental health provision. It is a high-water mark. This came about through investment from the state and the federal government, and I thank the commonwealth for its commitment to this facility. The 102-bed unit replaces the 47-bed unit. That transition has happened and demolition of the 47-bed unit has already started.

Demand for acute mental health services continues to grow, but, for the first time, the northern suburbs will have a dedicated youth unit and a dedicated older adult mental health unit, both growing areas of need in mental health. We know that families who have young people who are experiencing an inpatient admission currently have to travel to Murdoch and Bentley. That is a long way. The best results are always when families are engaged with those young people's therapies and support them when they come out. When families have other children who also have commitments, it is very hard for them to make the time commitment and do the hours of support and work that is required, and balance everything else.

I am very happy to be part of the government that is opening this facility. It really will be a game changer for the northern suburbs. The wards are beautiful; they are designed like a home environment. They all have access to a courtyard with natural sunlight and have big windows in the bedrooms. There are no fences. It is the only secure public mental health unit with no fences in Western Australia. The design is exceptional. There is a gym and community spaces for non-government organisations to come in and support inpatients with their transition out. There are schooling facilities for younger patients, and it is very much focused on a recovery model to help members of our community recover from their episode and live their best possible life. This is very much a key part of our commitment to modernising our public mental health facilities with significant investment. This is on top of the \$420 million in the last state budget, which included over \$200 million for the reconfiguration of Graylands Hospital, which is also in significant need of modernisation. I want to thank the North Metropolitan Health Service, Ramsay Health Care and Multiplex for bringing this in on budget—we are all thankful for that—delivering what is a nation-leading, if not world-leading, mental health facility for the northern suburbs.