

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM - BED NUMBERS

2829. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many day beds were available to patients in the Western Australian public health system at 30 September 2007 (provide a breakdown of beds and hospitals)?
- (2) How many beds were closed in 2007 to date due to staff and resource shortages (provide a breakdown of beds and hospitals)?
- (3) How many beds were unstaffed at 30 September 2007 (provide a breakdown of beds and hospitals)?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

Questions (1) and (3) refer to 30 September which was a Sunday. However, beds closed for weekends that are staffed and available on weekdays only are included in the number of available beds in question 1. This is consistent with advice in the National Health Data Dictionary. Beds in day procedure units were therefore considered available on 30 September if they were available on weekdays.

Definitions:

Available beds comprise available multiday beds and available sameday beds

Available multiday beds - The number of beds which are immediately available for use by an admitted multiday patient or resident within the establishment.

Available sameday beds - The number of beds/chairs allocated for use by an admitted sameday patient within the establishment.

A bed is immediately available for use if it is located in a suitable place for care with appropriate staff available within a reasonable period.

Available Inactive sameday beds - The number of beds/chairs which are not currently available for use by an admitted sameday patient within the establishment

Available inactive multiday beds - The number of beds designated for multiday patients that are not currently available for use.

- (1) See attached Table 1 (data for metropolitan hospitals) and Table 2 (data for rural hospitals).
- (2) The number of available inactive beds due to staff and resource shortages fluctuates during the course of the year. The bed availability situation on any given date can be provided should it be requested.
- (3) 'Unstaffed' is a term no longer used to describe beds as it is misleading. A more accurate descriptor is available inactive beds. Available inactive beds are beds within ward areas into which patients cannot currently be allocated (i.e. are closed for operational management reasons, such as infection control, staffing, clinical, demand management, ward maintenance etc.)

See attached Table 3.

[See paper 3437.]