

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

2016/2017 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Mental Health Commission

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON asked:

- 1) By way of supplementary, can I get from the commission the number of staff who are attached to each of those programs?

Answer:

The number of staff who are attached to the Child and Adolescent Health Service

- acute response team – 22.1 FTE
- acute community intervention team – 20.9 FTE

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS asked:

- 2) I refer to page 855 of the budget papers, “Services and Key Efficiency Indicators” and the heading “Prevention”. We are spending around \$20 million a year on that. Are you able to identify how much of that is what you would call media spend—however you want to phrase it—purchase of media advertising or whatever?

Answer:

Of the \$19,507 (Supplementary question states "around \$20 million" please identify how much is stated in the budget papers) identified within Services and Key Efficiency Indicator - Prevention, it is estimated that approximately \$2.3 million will be spent on the purchase of media advertising in 2016-17. This figure is based on expenditure on the purchase of media advertising in previous years.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS asked:

- 3) In relation to the comment that you made about some patterns in young people that may indicate lower use of alcohol, have you done any work around how much of that is a reduction in total consumption of alcohol and other drugs combined, or whether some of that is to do with substitution from alcohol to other drugs, including illicit drugs?

Answer:

The only current source of data that the Mental Health Commission collects in relation to consumption of alcohol and other drugs is the Australian School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD). This does not include a question regarding substitution from alcohol to other drugs.

Tables 1 and 2 present the prevalence of use of alcohol and illicit drugs by 12 to 17 Western Australian School Students for the years 1996 to 2014.

Prevalence of use of at least one illicit drug ever, in the last year, month and week has significantly decreased from 1996 to 2014 and has remained relatively stable since the 2005 and 2008 surveys. Over the same time period there have been concurrent significant decreases in the use of alcohol ever, in the last year, month and week. The 2014 results were significantly different from every other year.

This pattern of results suggests that there is no substitution from alcohol to other drugs; however, in the absence of a specific question asking students regarding substitution it can only be considered observational.

Table 1: Trends in the prevalence of use of at least one illicit drug for students aged 12 to 17 years, 1996 - 2014

	1996	1999	2002	2005	2008	2011	2014
Ever	▲41.4%	▲40.5%	▲33.6%	▲25.0%	19.9%	19.8%	19.5%
Last Year	▲37.1%	▲34.8%	▲28.5%	▲20.3%	17.0%	17.2%	17.0%
Last Month	▲24.7%	▲22.0%	▲17.1%	10.9%	8.9%	9.6%	10.0%
Last Week	▲16.7%	▲13.9%	▲10.6%	5.9%	6.0%	5.8%	6.3%

Any illicit includes at least one of cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, amphetamine, opiates or hallucinogens.

▲ Significantly higher than 2014 at $p < 0.05$.

Table 2: Trends in the prevalence of drinking behaviour for students aged 12 to 17 years, 1996 - 2014

	1996	1999	2002	2005	2008	2011	2014
Never Drank	▼10.3%	▼9.9%	▼12.0%	▼12.3%	▼15.9%	▼23.9%	31.5%
Last Year	▲74.2%	▲74.3%	▲73.1%	▲65.2%	▲63.9%	▲53.3%	44.3%
Last Month	▲47.0%	▲50.7%	▲49.2%	▲43.5%	▲40.2%	▲29.7%	23.9%
Last Week	▲33.4%	▲36.1%	▲33.2%	▲28.9%	▲23.6%	▲17.5%	13.9%

▲ Significantly higher than 2014 at $p < 0.05$.

▼ Significantly lower than 2014 at $p < 0.05$.

Suggested citation: Mental Health Commission (2016). Australian Secondary Student Alcohol and Drug Survey 2014: Western Australian Results, unpublished tables. Perth: Government of Western Australia.

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MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH