



**Deputy Premier of Western Australia  
Minister for Health; Tourism**

Our Ref: 25-49229

Mr Mark Warner  
Committee Clerk  
Estimates and Financial Operations Committee  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Warner

**QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS**

Please find attached response to the question 8d submitted by Legislative Council Member Hon Sue Ellery MLC for the Metropolitan Health Services.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kim Hames MLA  
**DEPUTY PREMIER  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

20 NOV 2015

## ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

### 2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

#### Metropolitan Health Services

#### Hon Sue Ellery MLC asked:

8) On page 42, I refer to the re-alignment of postcodes to ensure maintenance of safe obstetric services with organisational capacity across the metropolitan area and ask;

d) On page 113 there has been a steady increase in the percentage of unplanned admissions within 28 days to the same hospital in relation to the provision of mental health services, leading to the percentage of unplanned admissions being 2.7% over target. Therefore, I ask:

i) What was the target during 2014/15;

Answer: Please note, page 113 of the Metropolitan Health Service Annual Report 2014-15 deals with the KPI, *Rate of unplanned readmissions within 28 days to the same hospital for a mental health condition*. As such, i) – iv) have been answered with reference to unplanned readmissions, rather than unplanned admissions.

The target is 4.9% or less.

ii) Can the Department provide an explanation for the increase;

Answer: A number of different factors may have impacted on the measure for this indicator. The Department of Health has not assessed which specific factors have led to the overall increase from 2010 to 2014 (noting that there was a decrease in the percentage from 2012 to 2013, followed by an increase in 2014).

The decision whether to re-admit a patient can be influenced by a range of factors, eg. the nature of the mental health condition for which the patient is being treated; and the support services outside of hospital that are available to assist the patient.

The method of calculation for this indicator requires each public hospital to undertake a clinical review of patient case notes and discharge summaries to assess which of the readmissions are related and unplanned.

iii) How many of these patients received follow up mental health outpatient appointments in the 28 days following their discharge from hospital; and  
Answer: There were 210 patients that accounted for 284 unplanned readmissions. Of these patients, 75.7% had a community mental health contact within 28 days post-discharge.

iv) How many of these unplanned admissions were for suicide attempts?

Answer: Of the 284 unplanned readmissions, 10.6% were recorded as having symptoms of self-harm. It is unknown how many of these were suicide attempts.