

Environment and Public Affairs Committee

From: Hames, Minister <Minister.Hames@dpc.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 February 2016 10:30 AM
To: Environment and Public Affairs Committee
Cc: Morton, Minister
Subject: Petition No. 105 - Esperance Hospital Support Services
Attachments: Referral Response 25 2 16(2).PDF; Letter - Petition No 105 - Esperance Hospital Support Services.PDF

Our Ref: 25-51043
Your Ref: Petition 105

Dear Mr O'Brien,

Thank you for your correspondence received in this office 22 February 2016 regarding Petition No. 105 – Esperance Hospital Support Services.

As this matter falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health, your correspondence has been forwarded to the Hon H M Morton MLC, Minister for Mental Health for any action they deem appropriate.

Yours sincerely

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

Cc Hon H M Morton MLC, Minister for Mental Health

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet Legal Notice.

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Our Ref: 25-51043

Your Ref: Petition 105

25 February 2016

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr O'Brien,

Petition No. 105 – Esperance Hospital Support Services

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As this matter falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health; your correspondence has been forwarded to the Hon H M Morton MLC, Minister for Mental Health for any action they deem appropriate.

Yours sincerely



CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

Cc Hon H M Morton MLC, Minister for Mental Health



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Our Ref: Petition 105

Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA
Minister for Health
13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

18 February 2016

RECEIVED	
Office of the Deputy Premier	
Ref 25-51043	Due Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DOH	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft
<input type="checkbox"/> TWA	<input type="checkbox"/> BN
<input type="checkbox"/> RIA	<input type="checkbox"/> Attn
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22 FEB 2016

Dear Minister

Petition No. 105 – Esperance Hospital Support Services

Reference is made to the above petition, which was tabled by Hon Dave Grills MLC in the Legislative Council on 1 December 2015. The petition has been referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs pursuant to the Legislative Council's Standing Orders.

The Committee is undertaking preliminary inquiries into the petition and requests your comments on the terms of the petition and the submissions from the principal petitioner/tabling Member (copies enclosed).

The Committee appreciates your assistance and requests your response by **15 March 2016**, or sooner if at all possible. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Michael Ryan, Advisory Officer, on 9222 7409 or Ms Margaret Liveris, Committee Clerk, on 9222 7229 or env@parliament.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman

Enc: Petition No 105
Submission from Mrs Deleine Congreve dated 18 January 2016
Submission from Hon Dave Grills MLC dated 18 January 2016

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**PETITION IN RELATION TO A DETOX UNIT, ON CALL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
AND INCREASED DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNSELLING SERVICES IN
ESPERANCE**

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

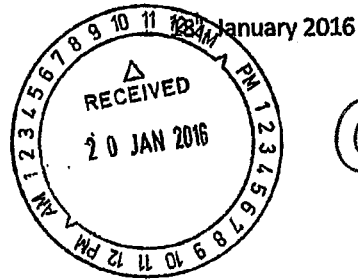
We the undersigned residents of Western Australia support a Drug and Alcohol Detox Facility and Increased Support Services to reduce the severity of Drug and Alcohol harm in our community

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to recommend supporting the establishment of a Detox Unit at the Esperance Hospital, on call acute Mental Health services at the Esperance Hospital and increased Drug and Alcohol counselling services in the community.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
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Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Attention Ms Margaret Liveris Legislative Council,
Parliament House,
GPO Box A11
PERTH W.A. 6837
Your Ref: Petition 105



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Dear Standing Committee Members,

I have lived in Esperance since 1994, and have worked in the Health Dept. of Victoria, and W.A. since 1963, and am now retired. During my career as a registered nurse I have had 12 years of experience in Drug and Alcohol in a private clinic in Melbourne, I then worked in Bairnsdale as a Charge nurse for District nursing, before moving to Esperance where I worked in Extended care from Esperance hospital caring for people in their own homes, primarily for palliative care, I was then appointed as the ACAT(Aged Care Assesment Team) nurse for Esperance and the surrounding areas. I also worked part time in a small mental health facility within Esperance hospital during 1996-1998, whilst this unit was in operation. However this unit was ceased due to lack of ongoing funding.

I now have a daughter with an addiction to Chrystal Meth "ICE", and have encountered the many problems associated with my daughter trying to get help with this problem through mental health, and support services. For this reason I started a petition to The Legislative Assembly, this petition raised approx. 1700 signatures in a period of 6 weeks. This was presented to parliament by Dr. Graham Jacobs during the month of November 2015. I then did another petition for the legislative council in late November 2015. This is petition No. 105.

Esperance was a vibrant, beautiful town to reside in 2 years ago, since that time there has been an alarming increase in drug and alcohol problems within the town, there are an extremely large number of adults 25-45 hooked on "ICE", this is creating difficulties with children and families trying to cope with this problem. I have had one daughter and her daughter move to Perth, to get away from the drug problem. During the Christmas period my grand daughter (aged 18) and her partner returned to Esperance for a few days, they went to the one and only nightclub in Esperance and were approached 4 times in a period of 2 hours with patrons trying to sell them ICE.

Esperance currently has approximately 300-400 houses for sale, the price of real estate has dropped by \$112,500 in the past 12 months, there are many empty shops, and more closing down weekly. Too much money is going out of the town due to the amount spent on drugs.

Police have attempted to curb the drug problem in town, but this has not deterred the many dealers and suppliers of drugs to Esperance. Domestic violence call outs by the police from June 2014 until October 2014 increased by 90% for the same period during 2015, this was possibly due to the increase in drug abuse.

My reasons for stating a DETOX unit was needed in Esperance hospital on the petition, were that many people who wish to come off drugs or alcohol, have nowhere to go should they require help. In many cases people are taken to hospital by the police, who they consider are at risk, only to be sent home again. Esperance hospital states it does take residents for detox, the facilities are not suitable. People wishing to go through detox or seek help with mental health problems require constant supervision in a secure ward, as this often requires medicinal restraint. I have seen my daughter through detox 3 times in her home, this includes irritability, severe depression, the feeling of hopelessness, severe anxiety and suicidal tendencies. For "ice" a person requires a minimum of 2 weeks abstinence from the drug to make an informed rational decision. (however this is only my own experience). Alcohol detox can be very dangerous if not handled correctly, and is a very individual treatment process, depending on the amount of alcohol consumed. Follow up programs need to be in place for someone going through Detox. Currently most rehabilitation programs require a person to go through detox prior to admission into a facility.

Currently in Esperance we have 2 drug and alcohol community workers who cope with residents in Esperance, Norseman, Hopetoun, Condingup and surrounding areas. Due to the demand they only have time for counselling services every 2 weeks. They are restricted by protocols from head office in Perth. Centre Care provide family counselling and drug and alcohol support services, they are also extremely busy and have restricted time frames due to demand.

Mental health has a community facility in Esperance, however they do not provide a service after 4.30pm. on Friday until 8.00am Monday, residents with a mental health problem or family members caring for a person with a mental health problem have nowhere to go after hours. It seems the only people you can call in Esperance is the police. The hospital has one doctor on call at Esperance hospital for Accident and Emergency dept.

Esperance community has expressed their concerns by signing petitions, I have enclosed support letters for these initiatives, which include Crisis Accommodation, Shire of Esperance, Chamber of Commerce, BOICO, General practitioners, Dr. Graham Rowlands (Norseman), Dr. W.P. Speelman, Dr. Richard Clingen, Dr. A. Marangou, all other doctors signed the petition for the Legislative Assembly.

There has been an alarming increase in drug related and mental health deaths during 2015, with 2 deaths two weeks before Christmas, and others 2 or 3 since Christmas 2015, these numbers I cannot verify, as the coroner in Kalgoorlie can only release this information to the Mental Health Commission, and cannot be released to any member of the public due to confidentiality.

I sincerely hope you will consider these serious matters.

Regards,

Deleine Congreve

Hon Dave Grills MLC

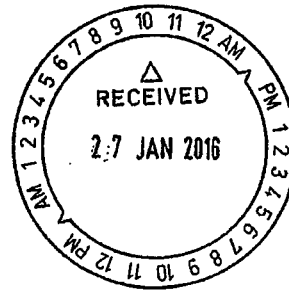
Member for Mining & Pastoral Region

Ref: Petition No. 105

18 January 2016

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee
Environmental and Public Affairs
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837

COPY



Dear Mr O'Brien

Submission in support of Petition No. 105 – Esperance Hospital Support Services

I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs for considering this important matter.

Since being elected as Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region in 2013, a number of constituents in the Esperance region have raised concerns about the apparent growing prevalence of methamphetamine - commonly known as 'ice' - in the community.

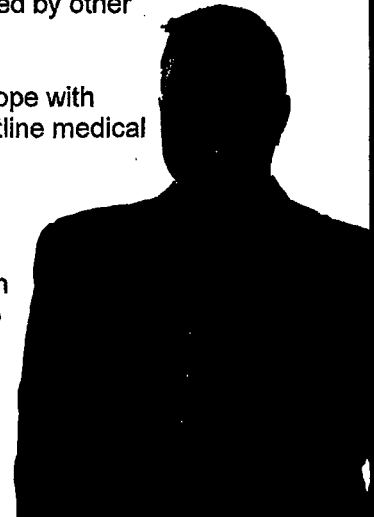
Methamphetamine use is a mounting problem across the country, with the situation particularly acute in Western Australia. The 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey found that Western Australia had the highest methamphetamine use with 3.8 percent of the population over 14-years-old having used the drug compared to the national average of 2.1 percent.

According to the 2015 Final Report of the National Ice Taskforce, there is emerging evidence that methamphetamine is becoming an increasing problem in regional and remote communities across Australia. The Taskforce found that the proportion of people using methamphetamine in outer regional areas more than doubled between 2010 and 2013. During its community consultations, the Taskforce heard that a wide variety of social support services, including services in many regional areas, are reporting that methamphetamine is having a marked impact on service demand

Methamphetamine harms not only users but also families and entire communities in a number of ways. As the 2015 Final Report of the National Ice Taskforce notes, methamphetamine use can trigger psychological disturbances or violent and aggressive behaviour. Long term use may damage the brain and cause impaired attention, memory and motor skills. According to the report: "The distress ice causes for individuals, families, communities and frontline workers is disproportionate to that caused by other drugs."

The Taskforce notes that regional communities are struggling to cope with methamphetamine use as support services are often limited. Frontline medical and emergency services are often stretched, with police, ambulance and hospital workers facing difficulties in effectively managing users. This places staff in dangerous and unpredictable situations and diverts resources away from other areas. Looking more widely, methamphetamine use also has a negative impact on the community's economic output and social fabric and is linked to

THE NATIONALS for Regional WA



Hon Dave Grills MLC

Member for Mining & Pastoral Region

higher rates of crime and violence. The cost to government and our wider economy and society is significant.

Esperance is one regional community where the methamphetamine problem appears to be worsening. The issue is further exacerbated by the town's isolation. Esperance is a remote community located some 400 kilometres away from the nearest major centre. As the town lacks dedicated detoxification facilities, those seeking treatment for methamphetamine addiction have few options other than to travel long distances to access appropriate services. This is costly and can reduce the likelihood of recovery as patients lack the necessary social support structure.

A number of general practitioners, medical professionals and community service groups in the Esperance region have expressed their support for improved mental health and alcohol and drug services in the town, namely a local detoxification unit. Such a unit would provide one-on-one nursing supervision, appropriate medical supervision and the coordination of follow-up mental health services for patients.

Calls for a local detoxification unit to assist in the treatment of methamphetamine addiction have also been supported by the Shire of Esperance, the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry and members of the general community, as evidenced by this petition. I have attached support letters from various locals groups and medical professionals for your consideration. I have also included a copy of the submission provided by the principal petitioner, Ms Deleine Congreve.

Based on my discussions with constituents, I believe there is a strong need to expand mental health and alcohol and drug treatment services in Esperance in order to help tackle the methamphetamine problem. A detoxification unit, combined with early intervention and prevention measures, would assist those struggling with addiction and improve community wellbeing.

I thank you for your interest and look forward to your response. This matter has not been referred to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

Yours sincerely



**HON DAVE GRILLS MLC
MEMBER FOR THE MINING AND PASTORAL REGION**

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