

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES — MANDURAH AND PEEL REGION

1370. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 1268.

- (1) How many people are on the waitlist for an appointment with Peel Child and Adolescent Health Service, and what is the average wait time for an appointment?
- (2) Does the minister consider it acceptable that the only 24/7 services available to Mandurah and Peel teenagers at risk of suicide are phone-based or online helpline-style services?
- (3) Given that Peel CAMHS refers clients to the Peel Youth Medical Service, is this local service funded by the Mental Health Commission; and, if not, why not?
- (4) Given that Youth Focus provides counselling in Mandurah only one day per week, with no capacity to increase services due to limited funding does the minister consider this an acceptable level of service for the Peel region?
- (5) Why does the government refuse to fund the local delivery of 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program services, when on-the-ground local services in the Peel region are so scarce?

Hon NICK GOIRAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) There are currently no children on the waitlist at the Peel Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. On average an appointment can be offered within a week where required.
- (2) Online and phone-based counselling is a popular, evidence-based model of support for young people at risk of suicide. It is both cost-effective and accessible with many key national and state-funded organisations, including this model, as part of their service provision. In addition, if an urgent mental health issue arises out of hours, young people and their families are encouraged to present at an emergency department or contact the CAMHS acute response team on 1800 048 636.
- (3) The Mental Health Commission does not fund GP down south for the Peel Youth Medical Service 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program. The Mental Health Commission has reviewed the evaluation report for Peel Youth Medical Service and provided feedback to GP down south on a number of occasions. Although the report indicates that the program is achieving some successes, at present the Mental Health Commission funds similar services under Suicide Prevention 2020. If further funding was to be made available for such a service, the Mental Health Commission would procure this service through an open market tender process, in accordance with the State Supply Commission's open and effective competition policy, as other organisations provide comparable services.
- (4) Youth Focus provides counselling in Mandurah three days a week, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, at the Billy Dower Youth Centre. In addition, it has a weekly presence in four schools, including one full day in Pinjarra Senior High School and half-days in Baldivis Secondary College, Halls Head College and John Tonkin College.
- (5) The minister does not accept the premise of the member's question. As noted, other services are being provided to address the needs of this cohort. I refer to the response provided to question 3.