

MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT UNIT, ALBANY — OCCUPANCY RATES

603. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 466 on 6 May 2014.

- (1) Can the minister advise why four of the 16 beds at the Albany mental health inpatient unit are closed?
- (2) When will the four beds be opened?
- (3) What specialist services are available for people admitted to the inpatient unit on Saturdays and Sundays?
- (4) Do these services include reviews by a psychiatrist?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Four secure beds within the inpatient mental health unit at Albany Health Campus are currently closed due to difficulties in recruiting suitably qualified mental health staff.
- (2) The four secure mental health beds will be opened once suitably qualified staff members are recruited. Advertising is currently underway.
- (3) The Albany mental health inpatient unit is staffed by qualified mental health nurses seven days a week, and mental health medical staff are rostered on the ward on Saturday from 8.30 am to 12 noon. Additional services include that of a mental health liaison nurse from 8.30 am to 10.30 pm and an on-call psychiatrist service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- (4) Yes, these services include reviews by a psychiatrist.