

COEXISTING MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**1020. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:**

- (1) How many people in WA have coexisting mental illness and substance use disorders?
- (2) How many of these people are estimated to receive treatment for both problems?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

- (1) The estimated prevalence rates of people with coexisting mental illness and substance abuse disorders vary depending on the particular co-occurring disorders that are of interest, the methodology used and the service setting in which the prevalence study is conducted. It is estimated that between 35 per cent and 70 per cent of people who use alcohol and other drugs also have a co-occurring mental illness.
- (2) People have access to a wide range of mental health and drug and alcohol services provided by the public sector, the private sector, including GPs, and the non-government sector. Data on the prevalence of clients with co-occurring alcohol and other drugs and mental health problems accessing Western Australian treatment services is currently not reliably collected.

The Department of Health's information systems contain data on clients with co-occurring alcohol and other drugs and mental health problems accessing hospitals and public community mental health services. The Drug and Alcohol Office is looking into possible enhancements to systems such as the Drug and Alcohol Office's services information management system database used by drug and alcohol treatment agencies to allow for improved information in this area.

I am advised that more time is required to collate the Department of Health's data. Therefore, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.