

JOONDALUP SUBACUTE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

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

What was the cause of the licensing approval delays that delayed the commencement of operations at the new Joondalup subacute unit to May, when the minister opened the facility several months earlier?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for again raising the issue of the subacute facilities and the necessity for them; I really appreciate it. No licensing approval delays delayed the commencement of operations at the new Joondalup subacute service. All licensing approvals were in accordance with the requested dates of Neami Ltd, the licence holder. An application for a new licence to cover psychiatric day hospital and psychiatric hostel services was received by the Department of Health on 29 January 2013. The Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, visited the facility on 31 January 2013 and announced the opening before the facility was approved for occupation. The building had mostly been completed, but additional time was required to complete that work and establish the clinical services. Neami Ltd requested the licensing inspection for approval to occupy on 2 May 2013. Verbal approval was given for it to be operational on 8 May 2013, and the formal written licence was issued on 13 May 2013. The facility was allowed to become operational from that date and residents are now in the facility.

Up until July, the service had received 51 referrals and all units were occupied. The length of stay is, on average, 24 days and the profile of clients includes both males and females with schizophrenia and personality disorder, as well as a number of people with co-occurring mental health and drug and alcohol issues.