

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION — GRAYLANDS HOSPITAL — SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTS

**560. Hon ALANNA CLOHESY to the minister representing the Minister for Health:**

Information from the budget estimates process from the Mental Health Commission states that in 2013–14 there was one reported sexual assault at Graylands Hospital. In 2014–15 there were 26, and in 2015–16 to May there have been 11.

- (1) Does the Minister for Health agree that the decision to close Western Australia's only female mental health ward has resulted in the increase of sexual assault reports at Graylands?
- (2) Why is the state government not doing more to protect vulnerable women in Western Australian mental health facilities?
- (3) What are the government's future plans for Graylands, given only \$90 000 is allocated for the next financial year and nothing in the forward estimates?
- (4) How many beds at Graylands are planned to close over the next financial year and what are the total planned bed closure numbers per year over the forward estimates?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

On behalf of the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No. I refer to the answer provided at estimates for the Mental Health Commission. It stated that during 2013–14, notification of incidents to the Chief Psychiatrist was through a paper-based system. From 1 July 2014, notification of incidents to the Chief Psychiatrist was completed through the WA Health Datix clinical incident management system and/or the paper-based notification system. This is a significant improvement in reporting mechanisms, which has led to more robust data across all domains of notifiable incidents, including sexual assaults. Therefore, the number of incidents reported during 2013–14 is unlikely to be a true estimate of the actual number of incidents that had occurred and should not be compared with the 2014–15 and 2015–16 data.
- (2) This question should be directed to the Minister for Mental Health.
- (3) The “Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015–2025” was finalised in late 2015 and recommends the development of contemporary mental health care closer to where people live, moving away from institutionalised models of care. The WA government will be considering future plans for Graylands in due course and cognisant of the recommendations within the plan.
- (4) No bed closures are planned at Graylands Hospital in the next financial year.