

SOBERING-UP SHELTER, KALGOORLIE–BOULDER

**1. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the Minister for Mental Health:**

I refer to the high levels of alcohol-related police callouts in Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

- (1) Is the minister aware that there is an urgent need for an alcohol detox or sobering-up shelter in Kalgoorlie–Boulder, given that the unit at the local hospital cannot accept patients still under the influence of alcohol?
- (2) What plans are there to fund such a detox or sobering-up shelter to ensure that there are options other than placing people under the influence of alcohol into police lockups?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

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

- (1) There is a sobering-up service in Kalgoorlie provided by the Bega Garnbirringu Health Service. The shelter provides a safe and secure place for those affected by drugs and alcohol to sober up. In addition to this, support is provided, as requested, to repeat clients in need of more specialised care via referral to other health services.

Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital will accept people for inpatient alcohol detoxification if they are referred and managed by their general practitioner.

I also add that I am aware of the residential facility in Kalgoorlie called Prospect Lodge, which provides a service for people, once they have sobered up and detoxed, to undergo full-on rehabilitation if required.

- (2) The funding for the sobering-up centre is recurrent and was initiated as a result of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. The centres were specifically established to provide an alternative to keeping intoxicated people in police lockups.