

ARMADALE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

8281. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health

I refer to the Armadale Mental Health Service High Dependency Unit where patients are admitted to mixed wards and where patients are unable to lock their doors, and I ask:

- (a) could swipe cards be used that allow the patient and all staff to enter a patient's room;
- (b) how much would such a swipe card system cost to install; and
- (c) under the present system, have there been any reported incidents caused by allowing patients with mental health problems to have free access to one another's rooms?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Armadale Health Service Engineering Department has provided an estimate of \$5000.00 per door. However it should be noted that the installation of a swipe card system would create new risk factors to be considered and mitigated
 - A swipe card may be able to be sharpened which would be considered a high risk in the HDU setting.
 - The electronic lock system in case of fault goes to a 'stay lock' condition which will require key lock overrides to be installed. Destruction or loss of swipe cards would entail ongoing consumable and administrative cost for replacement and reprogramming.
 - The installation of the swipe system would not necessarily prevent a forcible 'through door' entry to a room behind a patient as they enter.
 - Current risk mitigation includes high observation levels including high staff to patient ratio.
 - Additional viewing angle increased by the installation of convex mirror Sensor light installed to alert staff to movement in the area where patient rooms are located during the evening
- (c) Yes.