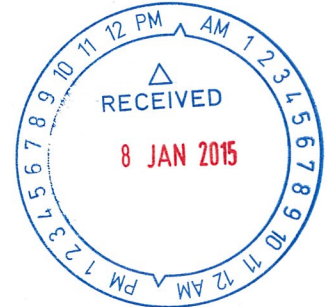




Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection

Our ref: 43-12865
Your ref: Petition No 23



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien

PETITION NO 23—NUMBER OF MENTAL HEALTH BEDS IN THE NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Thank you for your letter dated 24 November 2014 regarding the above petition and in particular enquiring about the Government's intentions regarding dedicated mental health youth inpatient beds.

You may be aware the *Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025* (the Plan) was released for consultation on 3 December 2014. The Plan details the service types, levels and locations required in Western Australia by 2025. Demand modelling undertaken to inform the Plan has estimated a need for 78 dedicated youth acute and 17 dedicated youth sub-acute mental health inpatient beds by 2025.

The Government recently announced the establishment of a 14 bed dedicated youth mental health inpatient unit at the new Fiona Stanley Hospital. The Mental Health Commission is continuing to explore how additional dedicated youth mental health inpatient beds can be established across the State.

It should be noted, the Plan does not articulate a requirement to locate all youth mental health inpatient services in the Perth metropolitan area.

The timing for the development of new dedicated youth mental health inpatient beds will depend on the State's fiscal capacity and will be considered as part of normal budgetary processes.

Yours sincerely

Helen Morton MLC
MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

5 JAN 2015