

Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice

(16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009)

Date: 18/06/2009 Output: 3.0 (Dept. Health & Families)
Sub Output: 3.2 - Mental Health Services

Subject: Mental health - unplanned re-admissions within 28 days - consultations within seven days of discharge

From: Mr Matt Conlan to Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Department of Health and Families

Question: **7-9**
In 2008, how many unplanned re-admissions within 28 days by hospital, and the number of mental health patients seen within seven days of discharge by hospital?

Answer:
Answered On:
Answer: In 2008 there were 108 mental health readmissions within 28 days, of which:

- 85 were discharged from Royal Darwin Hospital; and
- 23 were discharged from Alice Springs Hospital.

Note: It is not possible to directly identify the 'planned or unplanned' status of readmissions from the data available.

The number of readmissions of mental health patients to hospital within 28 days of discharge, relative to total admissions in the Northern Territory, is in line with the National average for readmissions within 28 days.

In 2008 there were 130 patients that were seen within seven days of discharge, of which:

- 101 were discharged from Royal Darwin Hospital; and
- 29 were discharged from Alice Springs Hospital.

Note: These figures refer to the number of patients who were seen by specialist Mental Health services following discharge. It is not possible to provide information about the number of patients who are seen by their local community health services within 7 days of discharge.