

Question No: 226

Question: Mental Health Services - Barkly Region

Date: 17/11/92

Member: Mr BAILEY

To: MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. What mental health services are offered in the Tennant Creek and Barkly region of the Department of Health and Community Services.
2. What counselling services are offered in the Barkly region.
3. What facilities and services provided by the Department of Health and Community Services cater for forensic psychiatry.
4. What facilities are in place to cater for acute care.
5. What rehabilitation facilities are available in the Barkly region.
6. What community education programs and other pro-active community work is conducted in the above areas by the Department of Health and Community Services, or is funded by the department.
7. What are the details of accommodation options available to clients in the Barkly region.
8. Are the current accommodation facilities adequate in number and type for the needs of clients.
9. What mental health services are provided to children in the above areas in the Barkly region.

ANSWER

1. Assessment and treatment services are provided in outpatient clinics in Tennant Creek.

Outpatient clinics are also provided in Community Health Centres located in rural centres.

The hospital is available for inpatient admissions where it is considered appropriate and where the patient does not require admission to a specialist ward in Alice Springs.

A psychiatrist and a psychologist visit the district regularly.

A community psychiatric nurse coordinates the mental health program for the district.

2. Counselling services are an integral part of any mental health program and includes psychotherapy, behavioural therapy and family therapy. These services are provided alone or in conjunction with other standard medical treatments.

3. Forensic services are provided from Alice Springs Hospital. Forensic patients are assessed and treated either at the hospital, in the Alice Springs prison or in

outpatient clinics.

Forensic patients resident in Tennant Creek are treated by the visiting psychiatrist.

4. A patient requiring acute care may be treated at an outpatient clinic, in their home or at the Tennant Creek Hospital.

Where a person cannot be adequately treated at Tennant Creek the patient may be transferred to the Alice Springs hospital.

5. Rehabilitation services are provided or organised by the community psychiatric nurse. Domiciliary visits are provided. Where intensive rehabilitation is required the patient is transferred to Alice Springs.

6. The mental health program for the district includes a primary prevention program. This segment of the program involves educating members of the community and staff from other agencies about mental health and mental illness. Brochures are prepared and distributed about mental illness and about the services available.

7. Mainstream accommodation is utilized in the district.

8. No requests have been made for special housing in recent times.

9. Services to children are generally provided in conjunction with the family. Where appropriate the visiting psychiatrist and psychologist assess and treat in Tennant Creek. Where necessary, treatment is available from the Child and Adolescent unit located in Alice Springs.