

Question No: 228

Question: Mental Health Services - East Arnhem Region

Date: 17/11/92

Member: Mr BAILEY

To: MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. What mental health services are offered in the East Arnhem region of the Department of Health and Community Services.
2. What mental health services are offered by the Department of Health and Community Services to bush areas in the East Arnhem 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 Nhulunbuy.
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 counselling services are offered in the East Arnhem region.
8. What mental health services are provided to children in the above areas in the East Arnhem region.
9. What are the details of accommodation options available to clients in the East Arnhem region.
10. Are the current accommodation facilities adequate in number and type for the needs of clients in the region.

ANSWER

1. Assessment and treatment services are provided in both the urban and rural districts.

Services are provided in outpatient clinics and at Community Health Centres in rural areas.

2. Communities are visited regularly by a Community Psychiatric Nurse and if necessary a Psychiatrist.
3. Liaison and support to the Criminal Justice System and the provision of assessment are part of the district strategy.
More specialised support is provided by the Darwin-based team where necessary.
4. Gove District Hospital is available for admissions to the general wards.

Outpatient services and where appropriate home visits manage acute care.

Where an admission to a specialist mental health ward is necessary patients are admitted to the facilities on the Royal Darwin Hospital Campus.

5. Rehabilitation is provided at outpatient clinics or in the patient's home which ever is appropriate.

6. Participation in special events such as Mental Health Week and Schizophrenia Week.

Community psychiatric nurses liaise with community groups and other professional agencies.

The rural and urban strategy includes a primary mental health component.

7. Counselling is a standard component of any mental health service and is provided either alone or in conjunction with other clinical interventions.

8. Children have access to outpatient clinics in the district.

9. A crisis accommodation unit is located in the grounds of Gove District Hospital.

Other options include accommodation provided by the mining company and available to employees.

10. Accommodation resources appear adequate.