

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

7th Assembly

09/08/1995

55. Psychiatric Services - Alice Springs Hospital

Mr. BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH SERVICES

QUESTION

1. What are the current staffing levels for psychiatric patients at the Alice Springs Hospital.
2. What were the staffing levels for psychiatric patients at the Alice Springs Hospital in the following financial years:
 - (a) 1993-94; and
 - (b) 1994-95.
3. Does the Department of Health Services intend to make any changes to psychiatric care at the Alice Springs Hospital within the next 12 months; if so, what are the proposed changes.

ANSWER

Answered on 14/05/96

1. 14.
2. (a) 1993-94 14
(b) 1994-95 14
3. With a reduction in the number of gazetted beds from twelve to six, the designated inpatient staffing numbers will be reduced by two to twelve. The two positions involved, however, will be assigned to a newly created Assertive Follow up Team, which ensures that appropriate case management plans are developed for appropriate ongoing client care. These changes complement the significant community based mental health service improvements achieved over the past twelve to eighteen months.

Initiatives are continuously under consideration which are aimed at improving client services overall in Central Australia. These may have a future impact on the psychiatric acute care unit; however, it would be premature at this time to forecast what, if any, changes are likely.