

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 13 June 2019

Subject: ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

From: Member for Nelson

To: Minister for Health

Agency: Department of Health

Number: 4.30

Question: Out of people receiving treatment for AOD dependency over 500 were from BDR of those 459 started treatment, how many completed their treatment?

Answer:

In the specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services (AODTS), a treatment episode is closed when the treatment is ceased for any reason. The reason for cessation can be that the treatment is completed, but also includes reasons such as: cessation against advice; death; imprisonment; and lost to follow up etc.

A treatment episode is recorded as 'completed' when all of the immediate goals of the treatment have been completed as planned, and includes situations where the client, after completing this treatment, either does not commence any new treatment; commences a new treatment episode with a different main treatment or principal drug; or is referred to a different service provider for further treatment.

It should be noted that people are not placed into a program, but enter voluntarily. What defines a successful outcome in treatment services is not the length of time being treated, but subsequent behaviour change and improved health. It can often take multiple episodes of treatment and a combination of treatment interventions to achieve lasting benefits.

Between 1 September 2017 and 30 April 2019, 459 treatment episodes were commenced in specialist AODTS where the client self-identified to the service provider as being on the BDR – 300 episodes commenced in the non-government organisations (NGOs) and 159 in government (NTG) services.

Of the 300 episodes commenced in NGOs, 275 had ceased as of 30 April 2019. Of these, 143 (52%) recorded treatment completed, while 132 (48%) were ceased for some other reason. Twenty-five treatment episodes were still open as of 30 April 2019.

Of the 159 episodes commenced in NTG services, 153 (96%) had ceased as of 30 April 2019. Current data collection processes for the NTG sector do not allow reporting of the reason for cessation for those identifying as being on the BDR. Six treatment episodes were still open as of 30 April 2019.

Data on therapeutic treatment for people on the BDR delivered outside the specialist AODTS sector, for example, in general practice or hospital, is not currently captured.