



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Associate Professor Anthony Cidoni, Chief Psychiatrist, ACT Health Directorate

In relation to: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit modifications

Hearing: 11 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 20

Transcript provided: 14 February 2025

Answer Due: 21 February 2025 5:00 pm

Associate Professor Cidoni took on notice the following question:

Ass. Professor Cidoni: In terms of fixing it, what we want to do is have the less restrictive treatment provided possible, so we want to avoid involuntary treatment wherever possible, so we are encouraging the engagement and assessment and ensuring that consumers are aware of the process and aware of the importance of engaging in mental health treatment.

We have the PACER model which is where we have mental health clinicians co located with police and ambulance to help facilitate those assessments and ensuring that we are not apprehending people, not bringing people to hospital if needed, so that is really trying to keep people in the community.

We have ongoing education, and ongoing liaison in terms of police and ambulance as there is different mechanisms in terms of there is a governance committee, and we also have regular liaison. I have regular liaison with the Chief of Police in terms of ensuring that there is appropriate education and training.

In terms of overall, I think we are wanting to make sure that we are only using our involuntary provisions wherever necessary. Can I add something briefly? I ask for the chair's indulgence in terms of the child and adolescent unit. There is just one thing I wanted to add. They do have a de escalation space and a seclusion space that cannot be used because of architectural reasons.

So we have—I have been out there, and there will be some modifications made to that area within the child and adolescent unit which would mean that you would not have to be transferred to the out unit if you require high dependency or seclusion. It can be done within the child and adolescent unit. So that will probably reduce, if not eliminate those transfers.

Ms Castley: And do we know when that will happen?

Ass. Professor Cidoni: It has been commissioned, so it is—I am not sure when that build is scheduled to—my understanding was it had been—the works had been approved. I do not think that—I would not be able to speak to whether those works have commenced or not.

Ms Stephen-Smith: We will take on notice when it is expected that those works will be completed.

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

It is anticipated that the works will commence in March 2025 and will be completed by the end of June 2025.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

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By the Minister for Mental Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith