



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE
 Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE 4 November 2021

Asked by Mrs Giulia Jones MLA on 4 November 2021: Ms Katrina Rea took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 4 November 2021 [PAGE 28]]

In relation to:

MRS JONES: Yes, just briefly, you just mentioned an increase in young people seeking acute assistance. Can you quantify that? The contacts, I think you said, with the Child and Adolescent Services.

Ms Rea: Yes, I do not have that exact number for you at the moment but happy to take that exact number on notice. It really is in the community setting so it could be bi-fold in that we are seeing increased acuity, certainly, of those community contacts with the community team, but because we have moved throughout lockdown to predominantly a telehealth model, the capacity to have increased appointments has also changed and the team are working really hard to identify those needs and adjust the needs—

MRS JONES: So can you just—

Ms Rea: —...(indistinct)... [4.41.50] but certainly happy to give you some data.

MRS JONES: Yes, so on notice what would be excellent to know is the exact data which created that impression for you that you just concluded was an increase in need.

Ms Rea: Yes, not a problem.

Minster Davidson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- The percentage of presentations to the Emergency Department (ED) requiring admissions increased for the period 1 August 2021 to 31 October 2021 (ACT COVID-19 lockdown), there were 239 presentations to the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department, 59 (or 24.7 per cent) of whom required hospital admission. The same period in 2020 (post lockdown) saw 324 presentations, with 61 (or 18.8 per cent) requiring admission.
- The number of young people requiring admissions remained consistent for the period 1 August 2021 to 31 October 2021 (ACT COVID-19 lockdown).
 - 24 young people were admitted to the Paediatric Adolescent Ward during the period 1 August to 31 October 2021, compared to 26 for the same period in 2020.

- 13 young people (aged between 16 and 17 years) were admitted to the Mental Health Short Stay Unit during the period 1 August 2021 to 31 October 2021, compared to 12 for the same period in 2020.
- However, the number of young people requiring to be cared for in the Adult Mental Health Unit (AMHU) increased with 10 young people (aged between 16 and 18 years) were admitted to the AMHU during the period 1 August 2021 to 31 October 2021, compared to three for the same period in 2020.
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) saw a similar decline during the 2020 lockdown, followed by a significant increase in new referrals post lockdown. It is anticipated that CAMHS will see a similar trend with referrals increasing significantly post the 2021 lockdown. Initially there was a drop in referrals in the months of April 2020 –30 June 2020 but following re-opening after lockdown restrictions were lifted there was an increase of 118 per cent.
- Even though there has been a decrease in the number of referrals, there has been a significant increase in the Occasion of Services in the CAMHS community teams. These young people are already being cared for by our services and access them more frequently.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Community Teams – Occasions of Service											
JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
826	899	906	766	837	1004	962	1109	1180	1142	1303	1127
891	1071	1081	1053	1203	1218	1172	1156	1088	1061		

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the COVID-19 2021 Pandemic Response

Signature: 

Date: 30 NOV 2021

By the Minister for Mental Health, Emma Davidson