



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by Ms Berry MLA on 20 June 2014: Dr Peggy Brown took on notice the following question(s):

Ref HD-No 7: Hansard Transcript 20 June 2014, Page 59

In relation to Mental Health

MS BERRY: Thank you. Minister, I know that you have been a very strong supporter of the Step Down—I am sorry, Step Up Step Down model, and so I had a question about how much per person per day, and how the costs compare to addressing people's mental health needs in a hospital setting, and why this additional model has been offered in the ACT?

Dr Brown: I do not know that we could give you the actual figure, a comparison of Step Up Step Down versus acute. We would have to take that on notice and come back to you with that. However, it would be considerably less than the intensity of an in-patient bed. But it is not just about the cost.

Katy Gallagher MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Mental Health Policy Unit funds three 'Step Up Step Down' (SUSD) programmes, aimed at adolescence, youth and adult. The average bed day cost across the three programmes for 2012-13 was \$558.

Hospital Inpatient mental health beds in the ACT (including Calvary and Canberra Hospital) had a per episode cost of \$724.00 on 2012-13.

The SUSD residential services were identified in the ACT Mental Health Services Plan 2009-14 as an integral part of the suite of mental health services for the ACT. The SUSD residential model provides 24 hour support, in a home-like environment for people with deteriorating mental illness and who are at risk of a hospital admission. In addition, the SUSD services provide additional support for people in transition from a hospital admission to their home.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:

Date:

30.6.14

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA