



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
MS JOY BURCH MLA (CHAIR), MR ANDREW WALL MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA, MR JAYSON HINDER MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

Ms Lawder: To ask the Minister for Health:

Ms Lawder: And for those young people who may have attempted self-harm or suicide and who come to the health system, the mental health system, do you have statistics about how long you remain engaged with that young person?

Ms Bracher: We would, through our electronic clinical record.

Ms Lawder: Are you able to provide any summary data to the committee about that?

Ms Bracher: I can provide a commitment to have a look at whether we can pull it out.

Mr Corbell: We can see if we can provide it, yes.

Mr Thompson: The range will be from very short to a lifetime of contact. We will need to think about the best way that we can look at the data in terms of providing a meaningful response.

Minister Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

ACT Health has undertaken a review of the information readily available from the electronic clinical record, and unfortunately is unable to provide the requested data. "Intentional self harm" is not usually recorded as a primary diagnosis code in the clinical system - MHAGIC. A manual audit would therefore be required on all clinical files to determine if self harm was part of the person's reason for presentation.

However, for all presentations to the CAMHS service, the length of time that a child, adolescent or young person is part of the service may vary from a single contact to several years of ongoing case management.

Noting that these very brief, or very long interventions can statistically distort average figures, in the 12 months 2014-15, the average number of treatment days for young people aged 0-17 years is 18 days. For youth aged 18-25 years the average is 16 treatment days.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community and Social Services

Signature:

By the Minister for Health, Simon Corbell MLA

Date: