



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR COCKS MLA: To ask the Minister for Mental Health

Ref: Statement C, Table 16, Accountability Indicator e, p. 40

In relation to: Restrictive Practices

1. Broken down by mental health setting(s):
 - a. what is the longest continuous time a person can be secluded?
 - i. What is the longest time a person has been secluded?
 - b. How soon after seclusion can a person be put back into seclusion?
 - c. What is the shortest period of time you have on record of this occurring?
2. Since the beginning of this term of government, how many times has seclusion been authorised without the prior authorisation of a consultant psychiatrist?
 - a. On how many of these occasions did the consultant psychiatrist not provide subsequent authorisation?
3. On how many occasions has the Public Advocate not been immediately notified of a seclusion incident?
 - a. What is the longest time period on record this term of government between a seclusion event and the Public Advocate being notified?
4. Since the beginning of this term of government, broken down by financial year and mental health setting, on how many occasions have clients in ACT mental health settings had the following interventions:
 - a. confinement;
 - b. restraint;
 - c. seclusion; and
 - d. forcible giving of medication.

MS DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1a. A seclusion episode is to be for a period of no more than four hours. If the seclusion period needs to be extended, a new authorisation must be sought from a Consultant Psychiatrist. The person who is secluded must undergo a physical and mental health assessment every four hours after commencement of seclusion.

- ii. A seclusion episode is to be for a period of no more than four hours. A manual audit of clinical records would be required to obtain this information which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- b. A seclusion can be extended after the person has been reviewed and a new authorisation has been provided.
- c. Less than one hour. A manual audit of clinical records would be required to obtain this information which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

2. Seclusion of a person under a mental health order must be authorised by:

- Consultant Psychiatrist before the person is placed in seclusion. The seclusion episode is to be for a period of no more than four hours.
- Nursing staff, only when a person is in immediate danger of harming themselves or others and where a Consultant Psychiatrist is not available. As soon as it is safe to do so, the Nurse in Charge (NIC) must seek authorisation from the Consultant Psychiatrist via telephone.

a. Nil

3. The Act does not contain a timeframe in which the Public Advocate is to be notified of the seclusion, the language used in the Act is “tell the public advocate in writing of the restraint, involuntary seclusion or forcible giving of medication”.

It is Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services (MHJHADS) procedure to inform the Public Advocate within 12 hours of a seclusion occurring.

MHJHADS also send a monthly list of all seclusions to the Public Advocate as a cross check to ensure they have received notification of all seclusions.

- a. This information is collected. To date, the Public Advocate has not raised concerns with the reporting from Canberra Health Services.

4. Confinement is not recorded/reported.

Canberra Health Services - Mental Health			
Date Range	Seclusion	Restraint	Forcible Giving of Medication
1 October 2020 – 30 June 2021	130	183	120
1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022	35	240	124
1 July 2022 - 2 September 2022	Not provided due to small numbers	82	44

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce - Mental Health		
Date Range	Seclusion	Restraint and Forcible Giving of Medication
1 October 2020 – 30 June 2021	No seclusion facilities	Not provided due to small numbers
30 June 2021 - 1 July 2022		13
1 July 2022 - 2 September 2022		0

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 13 September 2022

By the Minister for Mental Health, Emma Davidson