PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 - HEALTH

EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND APPROPRIATE DELIVERY OF OUTPATIENT AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

<mark>Question on notice</mark>

The Hon. EMILY SUVAAL: Is there any data, do you know, about how long people are being held in

those WHIN programs? I'm just thinking of the access issues, if there are any.

NICOLA RABBITTE: I can take that question on notice, but we have the Wellbeing and Health

In-reach Nurse Coordinator Program pilot evaluation, with the next evaluation coming in June next year.

Answer to Question on notice from The Hon. EMILY SUVAAL

In the case of initial referral and access to the Cooma WHIN program, my wait list time is usually less than one week until Wellbeing Nurse appointment with a student at Secondary School or a parent phone call from a Primary School. This is because School wellbeing meetings are usually weekly and may not necessarily align with the days Wellbeing Nurses are at a particular School.

Regarding how long students stay within an individual WHIN program, our pilot program evaluation noted that two thirds of referrals in the three pilot areas were resolved within 2-3 months, this equates to an approximate school term. Many students are re-referred for other supports or when there is an issue with the original referral. For example, a service no longer exists because of staffing or funding. A student may also choose to self- refer as another issue becomes apparent. The current Cooma Wellbeing Nurse caseload duration would be similar.

Please see included pilot evaluation link below.

Page 6 of the Executive summary mentions that two thirds of WHIN referrals overall are resolved in 2-3 months.

Page 27 onwards demonstrates the initial pilot statistics of the three sites showing the overall timeframes of those three initial pilots.

https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/18601/Wellbeing%20and%20Health%20In-reach%20Nurse%20(WHIN)%20Coordinator%20Model%20Pilot%20Evaluation%20Final%20Report%20tabled%20by%20Hon%20Bronnie%20Taylor.pdf