



The Hon. Kevin Humphries MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Healthy Lifestyles
Minister for Western New South Wales

Mr Stewart Smith, Director
Budget Estimates
Legislative Council
NSW Parliament
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Smith,

Please find attached copies of answers to Budget Estimates questions on notice taken during the hearing for the portfolios of Mental Health, Healthy Lifestyles and Western New South Wales. Also attached are the answers to the supplementary questions on notice and the transcript corrections from the hearing.

I have authorised my electronic signature for these answers in my absence from Sydney today, and will submit a copy of this letter with an original copy of documents on 10 September.

Yours Sincerely

The Hon. Kevin Humphries MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Healthy Lifestyles
Minister for Western New South Wales

DATE: 5 September 2013

Transcript Page 3 – Problem Gambling Treatment Service for Mount Druitt

The Mount Druitt Gambling service, which received a team first award, recently found out that Sydney West Local Health District had not applied for funding for it and has since closed. When did you become aware of that decision? I just want to know: when decisions are made by local health districts when are you, as the Minister, made aware? 3. Some of the local health districts, as you would know, have a remit to prioritise their funding. Obviously they are a mental health, drug and alcohol team so part of their relationship in the community, particularly with the non-government organisation sector – Lifeline, for instance, has quite a substantial contract, particularly in your and my part of the State, to support gambling addiction.

There are also additional resources employed in the indigenous sector – we know that is a more prevalent issue. So between local health districts prioritising their funding and also some of the programs that we run through Lifeline and through the non-government organisation sector, there is reasonable support out there, there is no doubt about that. So anything specifically in relation to the Mount Druitt site. I am happy to take more information on it. If it is in relation to the local health district and some of its prioritising as opposed to the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, but we would not need to find out what the relationship is there.

ANSWER:

The Problem Gambling Treatment Service for Mount Druitt had a funding and performance agreement with the Responsible Gambling Fund with the Office of Liquor, Gambling and Racing until 30 June 2013.

Western Sydney Local Health District delivered this program in line with that agreement; however, in 2012 the LHD informed the Office of Liquor, Gambling and Racing they were not in a position to resubmit for a further tender.

A new funding agreement for the Problem Gambling Treatment Service was announced in March 2013 and Non-Government Organisation services were successful in gaining funding to deliver the Service in western Sydney.

The new arrangements under the tender have commenced since, with an increase in service to Western Sydney via non-government organisations.

Transcript Pages 9-10– Official Visitors

My question was that incident reports are notoriously unreliable in this cohort by type one and type two errors: under reporting and over-reporting errors. As I understand, the Victorian study actually went out and specifically interviewed patients. It did a lot of work on trying to get behind what the patient was saying and understanding what the patient was saying. Are we doing anything similar in NSW? Can you provide the data to me on notice?

ANSWER:

The Official Visitors (OV) program does not receive incident reports, this is the job of the Clinical Excellence Commission.

From time to time, the OV program may focus upon the review of particular issues, such as the implementation of a policy.

The Incident Information Management System data is available to public health organisations to review and manage patient safety, service quality and security at the local

level. More serious clinical incidents are analysed and publically reported by the Clinical Excellence Commission on a bi-annual basis to help identify system-wide improvements for patient safety and service quality.

The Ministry of Health has developed a new (draft) Sexual Safety of Mental Health Consumers Policy Directive and revised Guidelines which recognise the particular vulnerabilities and safety needs for consumers in acute treatment settings while also providing advice on the support that should be given to consumers in non-acute inpatient, rehabilitation and community settings. The Policy Directive and Guidelines are currently in the approval process.

A minimum requirement of the Local Health Districts is to organise for relevant frontline staff and managers, and consumer workers and representatives involved with the service, to undertake training to enable them to effectively prevent and respond to sexual safety incidents, and increase the confidence of staff to discuss sexual health and safety issues with consumers. The training must include how to assess a consumer's vulnerability and take a sexual assault history; consider gender sensitive and trauma informed care principles; and be undertaken as part of an orientation process where practicable, with refresher training considered annually or biannually.

Transcript Page 12– Hay Flood Levee

In your capacity as the Minister for Western New South Wales did you make any representations on behalf of Hay Shire Council regarding its issue over the non-funding by government of the levee bank?
Do you think that they should receive their money for the levee bank?

ANSWER:

No representations have been made. I am advised that Hay Shire Council has been in contact with the Minister for Finance and Services, the Hon. Andrew Constance, and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. Michael Gallacher; therefore it would be inappropriate for me to comment.

Transcript Pages 13-14 – Wild Dog Destruction Board

What is the total budget of the Wild Dog Destruction Board and what proportion of this is New South Wales government funding?
Do you have any idea how many wild dogs are estimated to be on the South Australian side of the dog fence at Quinyambie?
Do you know if there has been a net increase or decrease in funding in that area under your Government?
In light of the destruction of 38 kilometres of the fence due to inundation in late 2012, what progress has been made in repairing these sections of the fence?
Do you know how many positions the Wild Dog Destruction Board currently cannot fill?

ANSWER:

This matter is the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Primary Industries, and as such should be referred to that Minister.