

**House:** Legislative Assembly- QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Date:** Tuesday, 30 May 2006

**Member:** **Castrilli, Mr John; McGinty, Mr Jim**

**Subject:** SOUTH WEST MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE - PROPOSED ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC UNIT AT BUNBURY HOSPITAL AND OPERATION OF CLOZAPINE CLINIC

**Page:** 3252b - 3253a / 1

---

**SOUTH WEST MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE - PROPOSED  
ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC UNIT AT BUNBURY HOSPITAL AND  
OPERATION OF CLOZAPINE CLINIC**

1174. Mr G.M. **Castrilli** to the Minister for Health

(1) Can the Minister for Health please advise when the final plans for the proposed new Acute Psychiatric Unit (APU) which received a budget of \$5.5M in February 2005 will be completed?

(2) Can the Minister for Health please advise when the proposed new APU will begin construction?

(3) Can the Minister for Health please advise when the proposed new APU will be completed and when it will become operational?

(4) Can the Minister for Health confirm what the size for the new APU in square metres at the time the budget of \$5.5M was allocated?

(5) Can the Minister for Health confirm what the size in square metres is on the draft plans presented to Treasury in May 2006?

(6) Can the Minister for Health give an assurance that there will be no downsizing of the planned 33 bed facility to fit within the budget?

(7) Can the Minister for Health give an assurance that there will be no cuts to staff facilities or office space size?

(8) Can the Minister give an assurance that additional funds will be allocated to complete the project based on the original square metre area if required due to current building cost blowouts?

(9) Can the Minister for Health confirm who has been involved in the planning process?

(10) Can the Minister for Health provide the occupancy figures from 2002 to current for the APU and from those figures advise how many of these patients required secure beds for the same periods.

(11) Can the Minister for Health advise what date Dr Gollick left his position with the South West **Mental Health** Unit and specifically the Clozapine Clinic?

(12) Can the Minister for Health advise what steps have been taken to replace Dr Gollick and when his replacement is expected to commence work?

(13) Can the Minister for Health advise who is currently the registered Director of the Clozapine Clinic.

(14) Can the Minister for Health advise who is currently preparing prescriptions for the Clozapine Clinic?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

1. Design plans are to be completed by 1 June 2006 and the full contract documentation is to be completed by 7 August 2006.
2. The construction period is planned to commence from 31 October 2006.
3. Construction is planned to be completed by 10 September 2007 with the unit becoming operational in October 2007.
4. There was no specific square metreage announced with the original budget and the size of the area was dependent on the design of the unit. The budget for this project has increased to \$6.45 million as part of the business case development process.
5. There is to be 1,005 square metres of new facility and 350 square metres of refurbishment.
6. Whilst the allocated budget has been determined for an increase of the unit's size to 33 beds, until the building Tenders close a final cost cannot be determined. There is some allowance within the budget for potential cost escalations due to the rising costs associated with the building industry at present.
7. The development includes an additional 4 offices and 12 workstations as well as an expanded staff room, new staff change rooms, a screened patio, additional tea/coffee making facilities and staff toilets in the ward areas. The unit has been designed in accordance with the Private Hospitals Guidelines, which are used for the development of all Australian public hospitals, and State Government design guidelines.
8. Escalation costs over the expected construction period are already included in the allocated budget.
9. The project is managed by a local Project Control Group with representation from service users, carers, clinical staff, health service managers, architects and the Department of Housing and Works. A Users Group with representation from staff working in the unit and service users has contributed to specific design features.
10. The Acute Psychiatric Unit (18 beds) occupancy from the beginning of January 2002 to the end of April 2006 was 61.6%. In the same period 289 patients were transferred to the metropolitan area for secure care. This figure excludes elderly and child/adolescent **mental health** patients for whom there are no specialist inpatient services in rural areas.

11. Dr Golic left his position at the South West **Mental Health** Service and the Clozapine Clinic on 3 March 2006. Dr Golic did not provide services to the inpatient unit.

12. Dr D. Lord and Dr A. McAleer (both local specialist consultant psychiatrists) are currently providing cover to the Clozapine Clinic, adult and the child and adolescent services pending Dr Golic's replacement.

A psychiatrist, specialising in child and adolescent **mental health**, was to be interviewed on 19 May 2006 but has withdrawn his interest and the vacant position will now be advertised nationally. This specialist position has been very difficult to fill in the past.

13. Dr D. Lord and Dr A McAleer are both registered as Directors of the Clozapine Clinic.

14. Dr J. Nazarian, an experienced psychiatric medical officer is working in the Clozapine Clinic and he is preparing prescriptions.