

Question on Notice
No. 686
Asked on 12 May 2005

MR LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL)—

QUESTION:

- (1) How many patients with acquired brain injury have been unable to receive slow stream rehabilitation services from Queensland Health?
- (2) What services are available for patients requiring slow stream rehabilitation in the public health system?

ANSWER:

(1) Five specific slow stream rehabilitation beds are provided for generally the most severely affected acquired brain injury patients at the Jasmine Wing of Casuarina Lodge, Bayside Health Service District (HSD). Over the last two years only one person has been unable to receive admission for slow stream rehabilitation as there were no beds available at the time of the enquiry. This patient was not a Queensland resident. Currently, there are no patients on the waiting list for slow stream rehabilitation at Casuarina Lodge.

The Jacana Acquired Brain Injury Unit, The Prince Charles Hospital HSD also has 2 slow stream rehabilitation beds available for severely affected acquired brain injury patients. Currently, there is one resident of the Unit who is on the waiting list for a slow stream bed and who will be transferred when a vacancy arises.

In addition, there are sixteen slow stream rehabilitation and residential beds for patients with a dual diagnosis of mental health and acquired brain injury at The Walwa Unit, Baillie Henderson Centre, Toowoomba HSD. Presently, 10 of these beds are occupied by patients requiring slow stream rehabilitation and 6 are occupied by residential patients. As far as is known no clinically appropriate patient has been refused access to these beds in the past 2 years. The Kirwan Centre, Townsville HSD and the Charters Towers Rehabilitation Unit, Charters Towers HSD also have some beds available for slow stream rehabilitation of dual diagnosis patients. Recently, one clinically appropriate patient has had to be referred to Toowoomba as the Kirwan Centre was full.

No further data is collected on how many acquired brain injury patients have been unable to access Queensland Health slow stream rehabilitation services.

(2) There are many forms of rehabilitation definitions. Acute, sub-acute, slow stream and maintenance are amongst some of the terms used to describe various aspects of rehabilitation. The types provided by each of the state's rehabilitation units is dependent on philosophy and main type of business demanded of those units.

Slow stream implies that these patients are requiring long periods of treatment, often within a hospital setting.

In addition to the services mentioned above the following Health Service Districts have some slower stream type rehabilitation services available:

The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District
The Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Health Service District
Sunshine Coast Health Service District

In addition, in the Toowoomba Health Service District some of the smaller facilities such as Oakey and Gatton have “step down” rehabilitation beds which offer slower stream rehabilitation services once a patient has been discharged from Toowoomba Base Hospital.

While most Health Service Districts do not have specifically designated slow stream rehabilitation services, at any one time some of them may have patients categorised as “slow stream rehabilitation” within the acute rehabilitation service. In addition, some HSDs have smaller facilities who offer “slower stream rehabilitation/maintenance” type services once a patient has been discharged from the larger facility.