

Question on Notice
No. 1338
Asked on 1 November 2006

MS DARLING asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the machinery of government changes that moved the responsibility of mental health to the Department of Communities –

Will he detail the rationale for this change and how it will benefit people with mental illness?

ANSWER:

It is the intention of the Machinery of Government changes to better coordinate and align mental health service delivery with broader community needs.

The community expects that Government services will be delivered in the most effective, integrated and coordinated way to maximise benefits for community members who use those services.

The integration of mental health strategy, policy and legislation within the Department of Communities provides opportunities to realise benefits for clients with mental illness.

In particular, it is anticipated that the changes will enable more integrated early intervention and prevention programs that support access to a range of services aimed at promoting people's mental health and wellbeing. This brings with it the potential to minimise the impact of mental illness on individuals, families and carers by reducing acute episodes of illness.

There is also the potential to achieve better service integration for people with a dual disability, like those with both an intellectual disability and a mental illness.

The Department of Communities has put in place a transition team to manage the process.

Throughout the transition period clinical mental health services continue to be provided by Queensland Health staff and mental health consumers can continue to access, and receive services in the same way.