

**Question on Notice
No. 196
Asked on 1 March 2006**

MRS PRATT asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)

QUESTION:

With reference to mental health, suicides and depression—

- (1) How many people in Queensland hospitals have or are being treated for depression each year, since 2000?
- (2) Of the total number of depression cases reported to Queensland Health, how many have ended up in the patients committing suicide each year since 2000?
- (3) Of the total number of depression and depression-related cases reported each year since 2000, how many are in rural and regional Queensland compared to urban areas?

ANSWER:

In responding to the questions asked, it must be noted that there are significant limitations on the data including:

- the data only reflects the total number of admissions per annum;
 - the data does not include people diagnosed with other depression-related illnesses;
 - the data does not reflect the number of people who remain untreated in the community or those who seek treatment via the primary health care system (General Practitioners);
 - the data does not delineate between the same person being admitted for example on five separate occasions, to a person admitted for the first time; and
 - the data is not representative of the number of people diagnosed and treated for depression by community mental health services.
- (1) The following table provides data on the admitted patient episodes of care where the principal diagnosis is depression.

Financial Year	Public Hospitals	Private Hospitals	Total
1999/2000	3,679	4,411	8,090
2000/2001	3,844	5,244	9,088
2001/2002	3,832	6,903	10,735
2002/2003	4,228	6,831	11,059
2003/2004	4,714	6,504	11,218
2004/2005	4,116	6,592	10,708

Source: *Queensland Hospital Admitted Data Collection (QHAPDC)*, Queensland Health

- (2) The total number of depression and depression-related illnesses can not be matched to the number of individuals who have committed suicide since 2000.

Data available on suicide however indicates that the Queensland suicide rate is 13.7 per 100,000 of population, an overall decrease in rates across all ages since 1997.

- (3) The attached table provides a breakdown of totals provided in (1) above by the usual location of residence.

I should point out that specific data for psychiatric hospitals is not included in (1) and (3) above as the data is incompatible and unreliable for inclusion. I would point out however, that psychiatric hospitals generally do not deal with patients suffering from depression. Patients suffering from depression are treated in the least restrictive manner which means they are normally treated in a community or normal inpatient setting.

Hospital Sector	Rural/Remote Classification of Usual Residence	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Public	Capital City Stat Div	1,813	1,818	1,729	1,929	2,206	1,883
	Other Metropolitan Areas	290	272	331	320	473	460
	Large Rural Areas	421	551	490	675	546	473
	Small Rural Areas	176	208	280	313	274	259
	Other Rural Areas	611	659	679	631	758	718
	Remote Centres	124	131	117	156	168	129
	Other Remote Areas	174	149	155	126	193	185
	Non-Queensland	70	56	51	78	96	59
Public Total		3,679	3,844	3,832	4,228	4,714	4,116
Private	Capital City Stat Div	3,301	3,776	5,081	5,073	4,630	4,930
	Other Metropolitan Areas	351	391	577	672	705	667
	Large Rural Areas	307	445	459	337	285	271
	Small Rural Areas	130	165	178	222	211	200
	Other Rural Areas	154	254	301	286	376	262
	Remote Centres	41	22	33	15	22	12
	Other Remote Areas	14	32	31	25	10	17
	Non-Queensland	113	159	243	201	265	233
Private Total		4,411	5,244	6,903	6,831	6,504	6,592
Total		8,090	9,088	10,735	11,059	11,218	10,708

Source: Queensland Hospital Admitted Data Collection (QHAPDC), Queensland Health