

Question on Notice
No. 284
Asked on 7 March 2006

MR HORAN asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to publicly funded alcohol and drug treatment services on the Gold Coast in 2003, 2004, and 2005 (reported separately)—

- (1) How many adults and young people (reported separately) have been provided with detoxification and rehabilitation services?
- (2) How many adults and young people (reported separately) are on a waiting list for detoxification and rehabilitation services?
- (3) What is the waiting time for adults and young people (reported separately) to receive detoxification and rehabilitation services on the Gold Coast at publicly funded facilities (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

Absolute figures are not available for medical withdrawal (detoxification) of adult patients within the Gold Coast Hospitals, as there is not a dedicated detoxification facility in the hospital nor a database that can identify such episodes. Detoxification generally will take place during admissions for other reasons such as with medical, surgical, psychiatric and maternity admissions. However it has been estimated that there are between 13 and 14 patients in the Gold Coast Hospital at any one time undergoing detoxification as part of their admission.

Gold Coast Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs provides inpatient and outpatient individual and group counselling (rehabilitation), but no residential rehabilitation services. The numbers of episodes of such counselling were:

- 1,984 in 2003;
- 2,443 in 2004; and
- 3,503 in 2005.

Detoxification services are also provided by Fairhaven, a non-government organisation which receives some of its funding from Queensland Health. Residential rehabilitation services are also provided by Fairhaven, Mirikai and Goldbridge which are all non-government organisations which receive Queensland Health funding. Data in relation to the number of detoxifications and rehabilitation episodes provided by these non-government organisations is not readily available to Queensland Health.