

Question on Notice
No. 63
Asked on 7 February 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the planned Mental Health Inquiry into the Toowoomba District Mental Health Service—

- (1) What has triggered the inquiry into the Toowoomba District Mental Health Service?
- (2) Who is leading the inquiry and who forms the inquiry team?
- (3) Is the inquiry open to the general public?
- (4) Will hearings or visits by the inquiry team to Toowoomba be publicly advertised?
- (5) Will the inquiry report be made public?

ANSWER:

- (1) Staff within the Service raised some concerns with management who subsequently agreed to conduct an internal review. After representations from staff at Toowoomba to the Director-General, she directed that the review was to be undertaken by independent parties and consequently directed it to be an operational audit coordinated by the Queensland Health Audit and Operational Review Unit.
- (2) The operational audit is being undertaken by the Queensland Health Audit and Operational Review Unit. A team with the relevant expertise from the private and public sectors has been established consisting of:
 - Mr Gerry FitzGerald, (Audit Manager), Indigo Flame International Pty Ltd, Brisbane;
 - Dr Cristea Mileschkin, Clinical Director, St Vincent's Mental Health Service, Melbourne;
 - Ms Sandra Hoot, Director of Operations, (General Manager), Area Mental Health, Sydney South West Area Health Service, Sydney;
 - Dr Bruce Millett, Associate Dean, Faculty of Business, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba;
 - Ms Teresa Douglas, Manager, Human Resource Services, Royal Children's Hospital, Queensland Health, Brisbane;
 - Dr Ness McVie, Principal Advisor Psychiatry, Mental Health Branch, Queensland Health, Brisbane; and
 - Mr Arno Steginga, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Mental Health Service, Redlands Hospital, Queensland Health, Brisbane.
- (3) It is not a public inquiry. It is an internal operational audit, however the audit team will be consulting with staff, external practitioners and consumer groups.

- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) This is an internal operational audit, so communication of the findings of the audit will follow standard departmental practice, i.e. the draft report will be issued to management for comment and subsequently to the Director-General for approval. The final approved report would be released to the Queensland Health Audit and Risk Management Committee, the Queensland Audit Office, the General Manager, Southern Area Health Service and the District Manager for action.