

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1389**  
**Asked on 7 October 2008**

MR MOORHEAD asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

**QUESTION:**

Will he inform the House of recent improvements in mental health services in the Logan area?

**ANSWER:**

A dedicated mental health assessment team now provides a specialist mental health consultation service to the Logan Hospital Emergency Department 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This allows the assessment and treatment of people with a mental illness by trained mental health staff.

Cooperation between the police and mental health services has greatly improved with the development of the mental health intervention team. Logan was the first District to implement this Program. The program uses the expert skills of a Mental Health Intervention Coordinator - Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC). A Memorandum of Agreement was recently implemented between Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service. The signing of the Mental Health Protocols and Procedures Agreement 2008 is further evidence of the extensive consultation and collaboration that has occurred between the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service and the Logan Mental Health Service.

The Logan-Beaudesert Mental Health Service has established a program to provide another option to admission or longer stays within the hospital. The 'Alternatives to Hospitalisation Program' provides a community-based short stay residential program for people with serious mental health problems who require further stabilisation before returning home or as an additional treatment option for people who may not be managing at home. The objective is to ensure that consumers have increased treatment options. Furthermore, some patients who are homeless could be assisted to move into other appropriate housing. The Program has achieved excellent outcomes for patients and now provides 24 hours a day, seven days a week support.

New service and treatment models have been established for a Mobile Intensive Treatment Team and an Older Persons Mental Health Program.

A Mobile Intensive Treatment Team will:

- target those patients who have been difficult to engage in existing services;
- where possible provide treatment, support and rehabilitation services directly rather than brokerage to external agencies;
- provide mobile services to the person's home or other community setting rather than in hospital or clinic settings;
- provide individualised and flexible treatment and support services;

- contact patients frequently (usually more than weekly), engagement is assertive i.e. the person is contacted even if ambivalent or negative;
- work with other agencies to ensure safe, secure and stable accommodation; and
- encourage patients to participate in a full range of community activities and roles and to achieve positive outcomes and progressive recovery in all areas of community living.

New resources have been secured to further expand services, these include planning for a new community health centre at Logan West; community care facilities for Logan and Bayside; and additional acute inpatient beds at the Logan Hospital.

Community care units are designed for consumers requiring a longer term model of care to build on the person's strengths, an approach that cannot be provided in a short term acute inpatient unit. Patients learn or re-learn living skills, budgeting, illness management, relapse signature identification, positive and negative affects of medications, and home management skills. In essence, the opportunity to potentiate their capabilities and develop skills they need to live independently.

Adult patients of the service who suffer from a serious mental illness, and whose persistent symptoms substantially impair their psychosocial functioning and their capacity for independent living.

Individuals with a history of multiple and/or prolonged admissions to acute mental health facilities and a background of transient involvement with community based mental health services who may benefit from intensive psychosocial rehabilitation and 24 hour clinical support.

New senior clinical positions have been developed such as a GP Liaison/Primary Care position, a Team Leader for the Older Persons Mental Health Program, a Multicultural Mental Health Coordinator, an additional District Forensic Liaison Officer and an additional Consultant Psychiatrist to enhance clinical governance.

The District electronic record system has been improved so that authorised staff from the hospital and the community centres can access up-to-date records on the care agreed for individual patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This includes access for staff based in the Emergency Department after hours that may be in communication with Police Services.

The Logan-Beaudesert Mental Health Service has established a Consumer Carer Advisory Group who are actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Mental Health Service.