

Question on Notice
No. 1984
Asked on 6 October 2010

MR ELMES asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the GE ward in the Mental Health section of Nambour General Hospital which has a sign on the bathroom wall instructing patients to mop down the walls and floor after showering and as patients admitted to this ward would be in an extremely fragile state of mind and possibly weakened physically as well, will the Minister explain why these patients are required to do such a thing?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Noosa for his question.

I am advised by the District CEO, Sunshine Coast-Wide Bay Health Services District that consistent with routine practice in all mental health inpatient facilities, patients are supported to attend to their own “activities of daily living”.

This includes personal hygiene routines and other basic self care. Therefore, it is not unusual or unreasonable that patients would have been encouraged and supported to be independent in these activities, including making their own bed. Where a patient is unable to manage this due to their illness and/or symptoms clinical staff assist them.

There are signs requesting patients to wipe the wet floor after using the shower; however there is no requirement for patients to “mop the floors and walls” as the Member contends. As a courtesy, patients are asked to wipe the floor for the comfort of the next patient using the facility. This is no different to what would be good manners in a home situation.