Question on Notice No. 982 Asked on 14 October 2015

MR MCARDLE asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK)—

With reference to the Emergency Departments of Logan and Townsville hospitals -

What information is recorded and by whom for presentations covering (a) consumption of alcohol, (b) consumption of legal drugs excluding alcohol, and (c) consumption of illegal substances (for each hospital reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Caloundra for his question.

As you would appreciate, Emergency Departments (EDs) are very busy environments in which complex assessments, decisions and actions have to be made rapidly.

The collection and documentation of alcohol and other drug consumption is a clinical decision at the time of assessment. If this information is collected and documented as part of a clinical assessment in the emergency department, it would be recorded in a patient's notes.

The coding of emergency department presentations and patient information is recorded by clinical staff directly into the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS).