

Question on Notice

No. 814

Asked on 15 June 2023

MR J LANGBROEK ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to mental health programs in Indigenous communities—

Will the Minister outline (a) the current programs and services available in each community and (b) how outcomes are measured?

ANSWER

The Mental Health Social and Emotional Wellbeing Community Support Program provides culturally safe, non-clinical psychosocial and emotional wellbeing services within a continuum of care model.

Under the program, five Community Controlled Organisations are funded to deliver trauma aware, healing-informed models of psychosocial supports tailored to the needs of the individual in four Hospital and Health Service locations:

- Metro South - services delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane;
- West Moreton - services delivered by Kambu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health;
- Cairns and Hinterland - services delivered by Wuchopperen Health Service including specific coverage in Cairns, north to Palm Cove and south to Gordonvale; and
- Torres and Cape - services delivered by Torres Health Indigenous Corporation, Apunipima Cape York Health Council Limited with specific coverage in Wujal Wujal and Hopevale communities.

Outcomes for these, programs are measured through recovery indicators that embed culturally relevant behaviour outcomes and narrative outcomes as defined by communities. Mechanisms also include consumer and community led experience and outcome measures.

The Mental Health, Social and Emotional Wellbeing – Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program (IMHIP) offers culturally competent mental health and social and emotional wellbeing interventions while in custody, and a transition service to support connection and continuity of care into the community. It is offered in the Brisbane Women's and Woodford Correctional Centres. This program is jointly delivered through the Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health.

Under Priority 3 “Delivering improved services with First Nations peoples” of *Better Care Together, a plan for Queensland’s state funded mental health alcohol and other drugs services to 2027*, more than \$63 million over five years in new investment has been allocated for specific First Nations initiatives. This includes:

- Expanding and enhancing funding for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organisations to deliver Social and Emotional Wellbeing Community Support Services.
- Enhancing access to specialist alcohol and other drugs treatment delivered through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organisations, targeted existing specialist providers in areas of identified need.
- Providing culturally appropriate specialist mental health alcohol and other drugs in-reach and transitional support for First Nations young people who experience detention in Southeast Queensland.
- Expanding culturally appropriate social and emotional wellbeing responses to three adult correctional centres in northern Queensland.
- Enhancing access to specialist alcohol and other drugs treatment and harm reduction responses to support communities with Alcohol Management Plans.
- Establishing a child and adolescent mental health team at the Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence (COE) Inala to delivery culturally appropriate specialist mental health treatment and care for First Nations children, young people and their families.

Queensland Health Hospital and Health Service mental health alcohol and other drugs services provide specialised mental health alcohol and other drugs services for individuals directly affected by severe and complex mental illness and/or problematic substance use and continue to make improvements to the care First Nations consumers receive.

Queensland Health recognises there are opportunities for improvement and First Nations peoples are engaging and collaborating with mental health alcohol and other drug services to support ongoing reform at a strategic and local level to better inform engagement processes.

First Nations consumers also provide feedback directly to services regarding their experience of service, through a number of mechanisms, including the Your Experience of Service (YES) questionnaire.

Queensland Health offers services to support First Nations peoples at risk of suicide including:

- Sit, Talk and Yarn (STaY) is an innovative First Nations-led and designed mental health and suicide prevention initiative, implemented by the Darling Downs Indigenous Health Unit, which dovetails best practice suicide intervention with a whole of community approach.
- The Way Back Support Service provides proactive psychosocial support for up to three months for anyone who presents to Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service following a suicide attempt or crisis. A dedicated pathway has been established and enables First Nations peoples to access the service in the Wide Bay region. The pathway commenced operation in July 2022 and links clients of Galangoor Duwalami with The Way Back Support Service.

- While this is the only dedicated pathway currently available in Queensland, The Way Back Support Service is designed to be safe and inclusive of anyone over the age of 15 years and is currently available across 10 Hospital and Health Services in Queensland.