

Question on Notice

No. 81

Asked on 15 February 2024

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

QUESTION

With reference to a letter written to Patient Advocate Beryl Crosby by former Minister for Health Yvette D'Ath on 18 May 2022 regarding allegations of patient harm and death on medical ward 3 in 2021, and as former Minister D'Ath advised Ms Crosby that she has referred this matter to 'other relevant authorities'—

Will the Minister confirm (a) who these relevant authorities were, (b) when it was referred to each authority and (c) what the outcomes and decisions were from each authority?

ANSWER

On 18 May 2022, the former Minister wrote to Ms Crosby, advising that her allegations were taken extremely seriously, and the matter was being referred to Mr Shaun Drummond, A/Director-General, Queensland Health. The previous A/Director-General requesting the matter be reviewed, with outcomes of the findings to be provided for her consideration.

In July 2022, the A/Director-General appointed Health Service Investigators and Clinical Reviewers to investigate complaints and concerns raised regarding the use of Schedule 8 and Schedule 4 medications with a sedative effect within the Medical Wards, Bundaberg Hospital.

The Health Service Investigation and Clinical Review reports with 39 recommendations was provided to the A/Director-General December 2022.

The Clinical Review did not find evidence of patient harm or death from prescribing and/or administration of S8 and S4 medications with a sedative effect, with side-effects consistent with the type and dosing of pharmacological agents used. The Terms of Reference and Executive Summary of the final reports are available on the Queensland Health website.

Of the 39 recommendations from the review, the Department have advised that these have all been delivered and complete.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service also made referrals, as appropriate, to external and independent authorities. Those authorities include the Office of the Health Ombudsman, Queensland Police Service, and the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Due to legislative requirements and confidentiality constraints the outcome of the referral cannot be disclosed.