

Question on Notice

No. 607

Asked on 10 June 2025

HON M RYAN ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the 'Caboolture Hospital Mental Health Intensive Care' project—

Will the Minister outline (a) expected budget for both capital and annual operational components, (b) where the project will be located in the hospital precinct, (c) expected construction timelines, (d) expected operational commencement, (e) the operational focus of the project and the bed capacity, (f) the expected FTE required to operationalise the service once construction is completed and (g) whether any public consultation has been or will be conducted in respect of the project, and if so the details for that public consultation?

ANSWER

The Caboolture Hospital Mental Health Intensive Care Unit (MHICU) project aims to address bed shortages for acute patients by improving access and recovery outcomes for local community members in a contemporary and therapeutic mental health setting.

- a) I am advised the capital budget for the MHICU is \$4.32 million (ex GST) and the annual operational budget is \$2.64 million (ex GST).
- b) The project will refurbish an existing area within the Caboolture Hospital Mental Health building.
- c) The Principal Contractor tender is still out to open market, therefore expected timeframes are subject to confirmation.
- d) The Principal Contractor tender is still out to open market, therefore expected timeframes are subject to confirmation.
- e) The new MHICU will focus on alleviating existing bed pressures for acute mental health presentations at Caboolture Hospital and provide a space which allows consumers to recover and heal. There will be four single, high-dependency rooms, and one seclusion room. There is significant pressure on the health system after ten years of poor planning, delayed delivery of new beds, and significant cost blowouts.
- f) The MHICU is expected to require 13.2 FTE.
- g) This service had been developed in response to strong community demand for improved access to intensive mental health care options in the Caboolture region. Multiple consultation meetings and site visits were held with mental health and other stakeholders.