

Question on Notice

No. 1035

Asked on 4 September 2018

MS F SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) what state-funded mental health step-down facilities are provided in Queensland (listed by each Hospital and Health district) and (b) what plans are in place to establish and fund such a facility on the Sunshine Coast?

ANSWER

In June 2016, the then Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment, announced the allocation of \$12 million capital funding for the construction of three new 10-bed adult step-up step-down (SUSD) facilities in Mackay, Gladstone and Bundaberg, through the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program.

The SUSD model expands available residential, community bed-based, sub-acute services by effective integration and collaboration between a Hospital and Health Service (HHS) and a non-government organisation (NGO) to provide clinical and non-clinical psychosocial support services.

The facilities will provide early intervention supports for people living in the community who are experiencing escalation in symptoms and are at risk of inpatient admission (step-up), and a transition service to enable individuals leaving the in-patient unit to access short-term residential accommodation and intensive support prior to returning to the community (step-down).

SUSD services support a key direction under *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021: A plan for Queensland's state funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services* to provide care as close to a person's home and community as practicable; expanding the range of service models across the continuum of care. Operational funding for the SUSD model is provided through Connecting Care to Recovery.

Mackay HHS currently operates a SUSD model at its interim facility in west Mackay and offers services for six residents. The new 10-bed facility is currently under construction with a proposed practical completion date of June 2019.

The 10-bed facility in Central Queensland HHS (Gladstone) will operate as a partnership between Mind Australia and the HHS. Construction work is almost complete at the facility, with handover to the HHS expected in the next couple of weeks. The 10-bed Step Up Step Down (SUSD) facility in Central Queensland HHS (Gladstone) reached Practical Completion in September 2018. The facility will operate as a partnership between Mind Australia and the Central Queensland HHS, with services expected to commence by November 2018.

Practical completion of the 10-bed facility in Wide Bay HHS (Bundaberg) has recently been signed off and the facility is anticipated to be open to patients in October 2018. Mind Australia will also operate this facility in partnership with the HHS.

In addition, a 10-bed SUSD facility has been established in Metro North HHS (Nundah), and a 12-bed service in Cairns and Hinterland HHS [formally known as the Cairns Prevention and Recovery Program (PARC)] has been operating successfully for a number of years.

Three youth step-up step-down units (YSUSDUs) are planned for Cairns and Hinterland, Metro North and Metro South HHSs, with each unit providing six new beds. Anticipated commencement of service delivery is mid-February 2019 for the Cairns YSUSDU and late 2019 for the two Brisbane based YSUSDUs. YSUSDUs are community bed-based (sub-acute) mental health services operating in a rehabilitative and residential environment and provide 24-hour intensive, short-term support for young people aged 16 to 21 years.

Initial planning processes have commenced to establish a SUSD at the Sunshine Coast and the Department of Health (through the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch) is working closely with the Sunshine Coast HHS to progress this.