

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee**Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Budget Estimates 2020–21****HEALTH portfolio (Minister Foley): 4 December 2020****Witnesses:**

- Hon Martin Foley
- Professor Euan Wallace
- Mr Terry Symonds
- Mr Greg Stenton
- Mr Chris Hotham

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**QUESTION 1**

I am not aware that we collect it [data on time spent by patients in behavioural assessment rooms in public hospital emergency departments] separately, but if we do, I am happy to provide it.

Additional information

A similar question was asked in the Mental Health hearing.

MR HIBBINS:

Source: Unverified Transcript for Health, p. 10

RESPONSE**Answer:**

The department does not specifically collect data on how long people spend in each treatment area within emergency departments e.g., behavioural assessments rooms or resuscitation areas, but the department does routinely collect data on how long patients spend within emergency departments.

QUESTION 2

Prior to the outbreak there were actually some increases in infections like syphilis occurring. Are there any particular initiatives within the budget to address sexual health? ... More specifically too, I understand that a review was actually conducted into sexual health in 2019 and it made some recommendations for a stronger statewide clinical sexual health system—so in terms of how the government is actually responding to that report as well. (Mr Hibbins)

Thanks, Mr Hibbins. I do not believe in this budget there is specific additional funding for new initiatives in sexual health. In terms of government responses to recommendations from the review, I might take that on notice. (Professor Wallace)

Additional information

Report not identified

MR HIBBINS:

Source: [Review of Victorian Sexual Health and Service Needs – October 2019](#)

Unverified Transcript for Health, p. 12

RESPONSE**Answer:**

The department is implementing a key recommendation of the 2019 review of Victorian sexual health needs and services to strengthen the role of primary care in sexual health, with clearer, better targeted pathways required for people needing specialist sexual health care across Victoria.

A sexual health system design working group has advised the department on the clinical and business model requirements of implementing a networked hub and spoke model across the state.

In 2019-20 funding was allocated to Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (the Centre) to develop and evaluate capacity building of three general practice clinics, two in the west (Hillside and Tarneit) and one in the south (Clayton), to increase sexual health testing and treatment locally.

Between 2017-2020 the government established eight women's sexual and reproductive health hubs across Victoria to increase access to clinical advice, testing, treatment and contraceptive choices.

QUESTION 3

Secretary, since September 2019 how many fatal heroin overdoses have occurred in the City of Melbourne? ... I am just after how many since September last year to get the updated information. (Mr O'Brien)

I do not have those numbers with me but I will provide them. (Professor Wallace)

Additional information

If you could provide them on notice, that would be great. (Mr O'Brien)

MR O'BRIEN:

Source: Unverified Transcript for Health, p. 15

RESPONSE**Answer:**

Between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019, there were 6 overdose deaths (2 non-residential, 4 residential) in the City of Melbourne and 5 overdose deaths (3 non-residential, 2 residential) in the City of Yarra.

2020 data is not yet available.

QUESTION 4

Can I just go to the North Richmond centre now, Secretary, if I could. How many individuals accessed the facility in 2019 and 2020 to date? (Mr O'Brien)

Again I will provide those to you on notice. (Professor Wallace)

Additional information

BP3, p. 63

MR O'BRIEN:

Source: Unverified Transcript for Health, p. 15

RESPONSE**Answer:**

Since the North Richmond medically supervised injecting room (MSIR) opened on 30 June 2018, to 30 September 2020, staff have safely responded to more than 3,800 overdoses, some of which may have otherwise been fatal or resulted in serious injury. More than 4,900 people have used the facility and are able to access co-located health and social support services. Of 195,584 total visits to the facility in the trial period, 189,989 included a supervised injection.

For the period 1 January 2019 to 30 September 2020, there were 165,186 total visits to the facility, 160,118 of which included a supervised injection.

Locating the MSIR at North Richmond Community Health connects people who inject drugs with the treatment and support they need. Co-located health and social support services in the MSIR include primary and oral health care, blood-borne virus treatment, drug treatment and harm reduction services and mental health, housing and legal services.

During a visit, clients can engage with staff in discussions about their health or access the consulting room clinics on offer that day. Staff have provided thousands of health and social support interventions over the course of the trial. This includes, for example, engaging more than 321 clients with screening and/or treatment for viral hepatitis (hepatitis A, B and C) and HIV (from 30 June 2018 to 30 June 2020).

QUESTION 5

Likewise, how many overdoses have occurred in the suburb of Richmond since March 2020? (Mr O'Brien)

Additional information

Nil

MR O'BRIEN:

Source: Unverified Transcript for Health, p. 15

RESPONSE**Answer:**

Between April 2020 and June 2020, there were 15 ambulance attendances for heroin overdose in Richmond.

QUESTION 6

Secretary, on that, what is the median wait time for colonoscopy in Victoria? (Ms Vallence)

I do not have the median waiting time for a colonoscopy. (Professor Wallace)

Could you take it on notice? Would it be possible to take that on notice? (Ms Vallence)

Additional information

I might add that we do not have the median waiting time for colonoscopies. The collection of accurate waiting time data for colonoscopies is something that we agree is an important measure for us to collect, but we do not have it at the moment. I think with the pandemic out of the way I am sure we will return to putting systems in place to collect that data and will be able to provide it to the committee in future, but we do not have that data at the moment. I am sorry. (Mr Symonds)

MS VALLENCE:

Source: Unverified Transcript for Health, pp. 30-31

RESPONSE

Answer: Nil required