

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Mental Health
Witness:	Minister Foley
Committee member:	Mr O'Brien – asked the question
Page of transcript:	8

### Relevant text

1. In terms of the number of unique clients versus number of overdoses what were on site [MISR], there are 2,850 – you are quite right, Mr O'Brien – and 1,100 overdoses I am more than happy to take that on notice .... [Minister Foley] Okay. If we could take that on notice then, please.

### Answer

The transitional medically supervised injecting room is saving lives and reducing drug-related harm. Since the medically supervised injecting room opened on 30 June 2018, trained staff have safely managed over 1,130 overdoses that may otherwise have been fatal had there been no one to resuscitate them.

North Richmond Community Health has advised that these overdoses include a proportion of clients who have had overdoses safely managed more than once.

Portfolio:	Mental Health
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Page of transcript:	8

**Relevant text**

2. Minister, can you advise the committee how many of the users of the facility have successfully completed rehabilitation?

**Answer**

The transitional medically supervised injecting room is providing a gateway for clients to link with other health and support services, ensuring they have access to the full range of treatment and support to reduce harm from their drug use. The larger facility will have more capacity to ensure people can inject under supervision, and more counselling and treatment rooms for co-located services to help clients access the treatment and support they need, when they need it.

North Richmond Community Health estimates that through the medically supervised injecting room, more than 100 people have entered pharmacotherapy treatment already, with more than 150 clients also receiving referrals to other forms of alcohol and other drug treatment services, including counselling, withdrawal and rehabilitation.

Portfolio:	Mental Health
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Page of transcript:	9

### Relevant text

3. Can you actually give me the figure of the waiting list [residential rehabilitation beds] at the moment?

### Answer

Acknowledging that there is often a wait for access to residential treatment in Victoria, and hearing the calls from communities, the Andrews Labor Government is investing in more life-saving treatment and rehabilitation services across Victoria.

In 2019-20, the Victorian Government is investing a record \$273.1 million (2019-20 BP3, pp. 205-207) in alcohol and other drug services, representing an increase in investment of 65 per cent through the last five State Budgets.

The government is more than doubling the number of residential rehabilitation beds in Victoria, and over half the new beds will be located in regional Victoria.

These extra beds will create more treatment spots, reduce pressure on the system, and improve access to treatment for people who may struggle to attend community-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) does not hold a centralised waiting list for residential rehabilitation services. Waiting lists are managed by individual services and reflect the complexity in people's lives as they make moves to address alcohol and other drug dependence issues.

Residential rehabilitation is only one of several treatment types available within the state funded alcohol and other drug treatment sector and is not suited to each and every individual.

Following comprehensive assessment, a person's individualised treatment plan may include several treatment types. A single waiting list number for residential rehabilitation cannot capture the complexity of factors and treatment options for a person seeking to improve their life by addressing their alcohol and drug dependence.

The Department of Health and Human Services is implementing the new Victorian Alcohol and Drug Collection. This will allow the government and alcohol and other drug sector to develop a better understanding of how clients travel through from intake and assessment to treatment services and, by improving data quality, allow for more accurate assessment and monitoring of system performance and client trends, including the demand for residential rehabilitation services.

Portfolio:	Mental Health
Witness:	Ms Peake
Committee member:	Mr O'Brien – asked the question
Page of transcript:	12

**Relevant text**

4. Do you know, Secretary, what the current month-by-month growth is [for the MISR]?

**Answer**

The Victorian Government has funded an extension of the service's opening hours by three hours a day once operations transition to the larger facility in the middle of the year. The larger facility will have more capacity to ensure people can inject under supervision, and more counselling and treatment rooms for co-located services to help clients access the treatment and support they need, when they need it.

Following a large number of registrations after it opened, the rate of new clients registering has stabilised in recent months. We expect a possible increase in registrations over coming months once the new, larger facility opens for extended operating hours.

There are many factors that may contribute the use of the medically supervised injecting room, including drug trends (such as changes in the strength or price of drugs) and environmental conditions.