



Our Ref:

Ms Debora Colvin
Chief Mental Health Advocate
Mental Health Advocacy Service
6/18 Harvest Terrace
West Perth 6005
By email: contactus@mhas.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Colvin,

PEOPLE STUCK IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS WAITING FOR A MENTAL HEALTH BED – HSP BED FLOW MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February 2018 in relation to the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine's report into waiting times at Western Australian emergency departments.

The Board and I share your concern regarding the situation for young people presenting at emergency departments with mental health issues, and agree that the current situation is unacceptable.

In relation to PMH, patients who enter the emergency department with these issues are transferred as soon as possible to an appropriate bed.

Unfortunately there are insufficient beds for young people across the system. In addition there are inadequate supports for some patients in the community, such as supported accommodation, that prevent discharge.

I am aware the Chief Executives of all health services are working together on patient flow with particular focus on those with mental illness. The publication of the ACEM report as well as the Sustainable Health Review Interim Report will ensure this work maintains momentum.

Kind regards,

Ms Deborah Karasinski
Chairperson
Child and Adolescent Health Service Board

February 2018

cc:

