



RECEIVED
23 MAR 2018

BY:

Ms Debora Colvin
Chief Mental Health Advocate
Mental Health Advocacy Service
Unit 6/18 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Ms Colvin

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February 2018 regarding the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine's report recently released on waiting times in the Emergency Department for a mental health bed.

The East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) Board is equally concerned that we have patients remaining in the Emergency Department for delayed periods of time. In order to address these issues, work has already commenced through the Chief Executives in relation to improving patient flow but we acknowledge there is further work to be done.

Other initiatives, which have commenced in EMHS, include the creation of a Mental Health Observation Area (MHOA) at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH). The MHOA, which will open early next year, will provide a dedicated observation area for the rapid streaming and stabilisation of acute mental health patients. In addition, a Behavioural Assessment Urgent Care Centre (BAUCC) will open at RPH in May 2018 and this will provide a dedicated area to manage patients experiencing acute behavioural disturbances that are psychological, drug, alcohol, toxicological or situational in nature.

It is hoped that by having these two dedicated spaces, specialised health care can be provided in a timelier manner and within a safer environment.

Yours sincerely

Ian Smith PSM
Board Chair
East Metropolitan Health Service

21 March 2018