



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
HEALTH

Office of the MEC for Health

13th Floor • Dukumbana Building • Independence Avenue • BHISHO

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Enquiries: Ms. B. Mdoda • Tel: +27 (0) 40 608 1120 • Cell: +27 (0) 66 008 8635

Our Reference:	B. Mdoda	Your Reference:	
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TO: HANSARD AND HOUSE BUSINESS

FROM: MEC FOR HEALTH

**SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO IQP NO 22 WITH QUESTION NO 533 & 534 FOR WRITTEN
REPLY**

534. Ms J Cowley to ask the MEC responsible for Health:

Noting that psychiatric hospitals in the province are alleged to be severely understaffed and many psychiatrist posts are vacant and further noting that mental health disorders are reportedly on the increase as a result of the enormous emotional burden of the COVID-19 pandemic and will surely increase further as the third wave of the pandemic grips our province:



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QUESTION	INSTITUTIONS								
	RESPONSE	KH	EDH	TH	FEH	EL MHU	DORA MHU	MTHATHA MHU	
Red = funded Black = unfunded									
(1) What is the latest number of vacant funded Specialist Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Nurse posts, per district, in the province;	Specialists = 2	1/4	1/1	0/1	0/4	0/1	0/2	0/0	
	Psychiatric nurses = 11	0/32	2/2	5/39	1/14	5/5	0	0/40	
(2) what is the number of beds that are currently utilized for mental health patients, per district, in the province;	Chris Hani	440	440	163	400	313	50	35	60
	Nelson Mandela	198							
	Sarah Baartman	313							
	Buffalo City Metro	50							
	OR Tambo	60							
	Alfred Nzo	0							
	Joe Gqabi	0							
	Amathole	400							

QUESTION	INSTITUTIONS							
	RESPONSE	KH	EDH	TH	FEH	EL MHU	DORA MHU	MTHATHA MHU
(3) (a) how many Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Nurse posts has her Department filled so far in the current financial year as at the latest specified date for which information is available and b) at which institutions have these posts been filled;	Psychiatrists = 1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Psychiatric nurses = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(4) what steps her Department anticipates will be taken with a view to ensuring that state patients who experience mental disorders during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic will have access to psychiatric care in all districts?	<p>The admission of State patients will not be affected. They will be subjected to the same booking system which is monitored by the NDOH as well as following protocol for referral of users when admitted in psychiatric institutions which require screening for Covid - 19 before they are admitted. There is also a process for review / consultation of State Patients by psychiatrists while they are still waiting in Correctional Centres to ensure that they are on proper medication while waiting for availability of beds.</p>							



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QUESTION	RESPONSE
(1) What is the latest number of vacant funded Specialist Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Nurse posts, per district, in the province;	-4 vacant Psychiatrists Posts, Only one funded in the institution -Specialist PNs =10 OPM filled and 5 vacant =5 PNs filled and 27 vacant
(2) what is the number of beds that are currently utilized for mental health patients, per district, in the province;	440 for the institution Please see breakdown on the attached table
(3) (a) how many Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Nurse posts has her Department filled so far in the current financial year as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) at which institutions have these posts been filled;	-No new appointees in the current financial year. -Total warm bodies: Psychiatrist =0 Prof Nurses = 62 Operational Managers Nursing=12 Area Managers =3 Nursing Manager=0
(4) What steps her department anticipates will be taken with a view to ensuring that state patients who experience mental disorders during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic will	The admission of State patients will not be affected. They will be subjected to the same booking system which is monitored by the NDOH as well as following protocol for referral of users when admitted in psychiatric institutions which require screening for Covid - 19 before they are admitted. There is also a process for review / consultation of State Patients by psychiatrists while they are still waiting in Correctional Centres to ensure that they are on proper

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