

Under embargo until 1.00am on Friday, 30 January 2009

For personal use only. Third parties should not be approached until the embargo is lifted.

MENTAL HEALTH (CHAPTER 12)

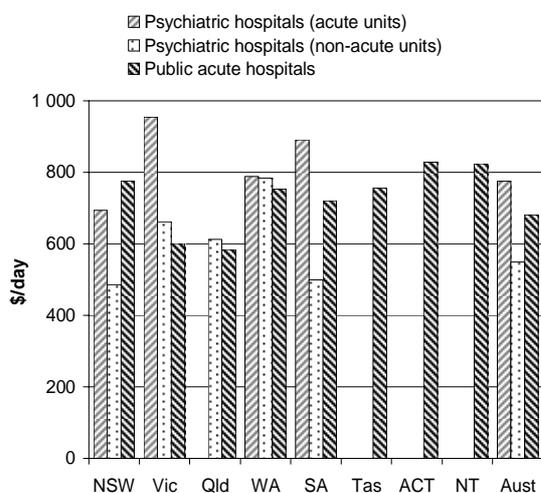
- The focus of this chapter is on the performance of governments in managing two key health issues: breast cancer and mental health. This factsheet focuses on the performance of governments in managing people with a mental illness through specialised mental health services that treat mostly low prevalence but severe illness.
- Real government recurrent expenditure of around \$4.5 billion was allocated to mental health services in 2006-07. State and Territory governments made the largest contribution (\$2.9 billion, or 64.8 per cent), although this included some Australian Government funds under the Australian Health Care Agreements (p. 12.43). The Australian Government funded the remainder (\$1.6 billion, or 35.2 per cent) (tables 12A.31 and 12A.32).

Broad objectives of National Mental Health Policy

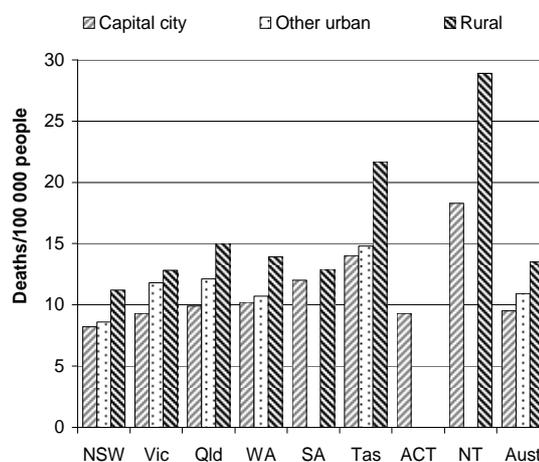
- The broad objectives of Mental Health Policy include to: improve the effectiveness and quality of service delivery and outcomes; prevent, where possible, the development of mental health problems and mental illnesses; undertake, where appropriate, early intervention of mental health problems and mental illnesses; and reduce, where possible, the impact of mental illnesses on individuals, families and the community. Governments also aim to improve mental health and facilitate recovery from illness through more stable accommodation and support and meaningful participation in recreational, social, employment and other activities in the community.

Selection of results

Average recurrent cost per inpatient bed day, public hospitals, by hospital type, 2006-07^a (p. 12.77)

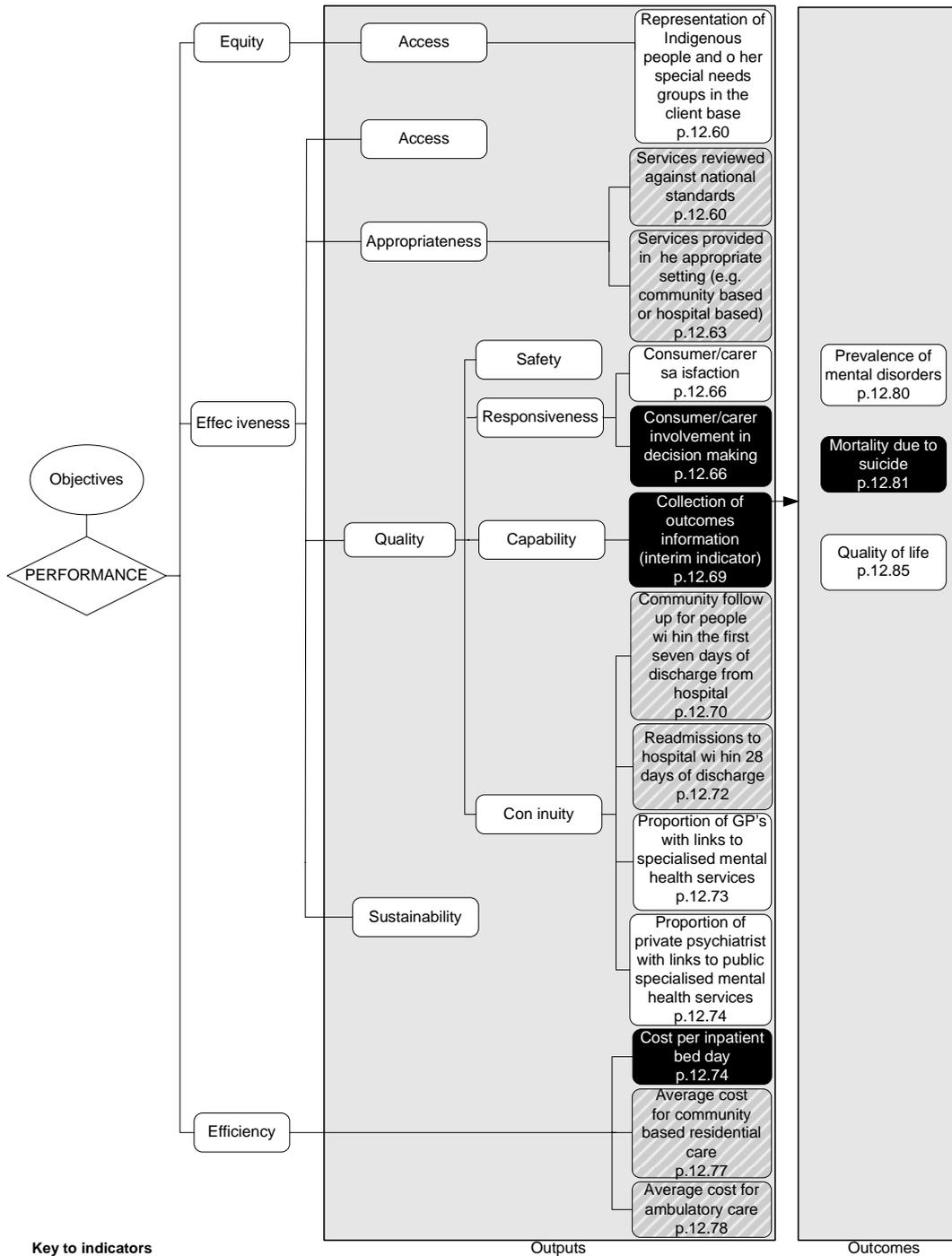


Suicide rate, by area, 2002-2006^a (p. 12.84)



^a Data and caveats for these figures are available electronically on the CD-ROM enclosed with the Report and from the website for the Review of Government Service Provision (www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2009). Data may be subject to revision. The most recent data will be available on the Review website.

Performance indicators for mental health management (figure 12.32, p. 12.59)



Key to indicators

- Text Data for these indicators comparable, subject to caveats to each chart or table
- Text Data for these indicators not complete or not directly comparable
- Text These indicators yet to be developed or data not collected for this Report: chapter contains explanatory text

Developments in reporting since the 2008 Report

- Data from the ABS's 2007 *National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing* have been included on the following:
 - the prevalence of mental illnesses/disorders
 - the participation of people with mental illnesses/disorders in the labour force, employment and study
 - the use of services for mental health by people with mental illnesses/disorders.
- Data on the proportion of the population receiving clinical mental health care are reported.
- The measure 'expenditure on community-based services as a proportion of total spending on mental health services' is reported as a replacement measure for 'recurrent expenditure on stand-alone psychiatric hospitals as a proportion of total expenditure on mental health services'.
- Data are included for the following mental health indicators for the first time:
 - 'rates of community follow up for people within the first seven days of discharge from hospital'
 - 'readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge'.

[END]

Background information: Lawrence McDonald, Head of Secretariat 03 9653 2178/0421 584 905

Other information: Clair Angel, Media and Publications 02 6240 3239/0417 665 443

Please do not approach other parties for comment before Friday 30 January 2009.

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 02 6240 3239.

Hard copies of this publication are available from McMillanprint (ph: 02 9795 1200 or email custserv@mcmillanprint.com.au). The report will be available via the Internet at www.pc.gov.au on the morning of Friday 30 January 2009.

Tables with an 'A' suffix (eg table 12A.5) are in the attachments on the CD-ROM or on the Review website.