

Allied Health Workload

Report on Allied Health Workload Forms

Bundaberg Hospital

Unit Overview

The Allied Health Unit Bundaberg consists of seven Allied Health Disciplines:

- Dietetics
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Psychology
- Occupational Therapy

Current Situation

On occasion, the number of referrals made to an Allied Health discipline is exceeding the capacity of that discipline to respond to all the referrals.

During the period 18/02/2019 to 19/06/19 (inclusive) a total of 59 forms were submitted by four of the seven units.

Unit	Total number of forms
Nutrition & Dietetics	14
Social Work	32
Physiotherapy	7
Occupational Therapy	6

The highest number of forms submitted by any single unit on any single day was two. The highest number of forms submitted by all units on any single day was three.

How is the issue being addressed?

- A clinical prioritisation tool is being used to ensure that patients are being seen in order of clinical need.
- Business rules have been changed to allow backfill from a casual pool for sick leave and planned leave, with responsive timeframes for the former.
- Expedited recruitment processes to fill vacancies (three vacancies in Physiotherapy have recently been filled)
- Change in the model of care within Integrated Care Services and Emergency with a refocus on servicing ED reliving some pressures on acute services.
- Continued monitoring of workload reporting forms and dialogue with discipline directors.

Of note, all teams are taking all meal breaks. Sick leave is in line with normal seasonal variation. There has been no marked increase in overtime and no reports of staff fatigue.