

Plan for doctors to treat patients in police lock-ups

The proposal is part of a raft of measures to reduce violent behaviour towards hospital staff in WA

12th August 2019

By Carmel Sparke |

0 Comments

Doctors would be sent to WA Police lock-ups to treat patients in custody, under a proposed state government plan to cut violence in hospitals.

Other measures in a \$5 million package to reduce violent and aggressive behaviour towards staff include boosting the numbers of alcohol and drug specialists in hospitals.

WA Minister for Health Roger Cook announced the proposals on Sunday, which came out of an anti-violence summit held in June.

"This new funding is the first step to stamp out this deplorable trend of violence and ensure our staff feel safe," Mr Cook said in a statement.

"Strengthening processes with WA Police and providing in-reach medical services at police facilities such as the Perth lock-up, will go a long way to help reduce violence and antisocial behaviour in our hospitals."

Work has already begun on developing partnerships between hospitals and police in a bid to improve patient handovers.

In addition, treating patients in custody could potentially reduce the impact of taking aggressive people to the ED.

"This is expected to minimise violent and aggressive patients being brought to ED when they could potentially be treated by clinicians in the lock-up," the statement said.

There will also be a security upgrade for hospitals, better security training for staff, and a public awareness campaign aimed at encouraging patients and visitors to consider the impact of their actions

"Our healthcare workers provide life-saving treatment to the sickest and most vulnerable West Australians, and should be able to do so in a safe environment," Mr Cook said.

The anti-violence summit, attended by more than 100 healthcare workers, was called after a 55-year-old nurse was stabbed by a patient at Royal Perth Hospital earlier this year.

More information: WA Govt media statement