

From: debbie har Sent: Wednesday, 25 May 2005 10:28 AM

To: Committee, Mental Health (SEN)

Subject: no access to mental health services through wollongong hosp casualty

dear editor,

i am writing as a long term sufferer of bipolar disorder who could not get assessed for admittance to the mental health unit at wollongong even though i am known by the staff on the ward .i called an ambulance for myself around 1.30am on sunday 15th may,was taken to casualty ,waited 4 hours to be told that i suffered eczema & insomnia, iwas not taken seriously.

my story has been on win news & i have made a formal complaint to the Health Care Complaints Commission but this will take time & people are going to be turned away from casualty again this week end.

so don't complain about suicide rates and wonder why it happens ,this is how it happens i have the written discharge paper that dr nasreen sultana gave me as proof .i saw my psychiatrist Dr Chandra on wednesday & joked with him that probably medicare shouldn't cover the bulk billing cost because if i don't have a mental illness it is news to him & i.i have lost many friends including my partner to suicide & i can't sit by & let this happen to anyone else.i am going to sue for negligence & civil damages because this government only cares about saving money in hospitals, i will not put up with this incompetence while i live & breathe i will do all that i can to draw attention to this.

yours sincerely,

Debbie Har