

NURSE PRACTITIONERS — EASTERN WHEATBELT

1191. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the funding of nurse practitioners, specifically for the eastern wheatbelt, and the lack of funding to continue provision of basic health care in the eastern wheatbelt.

- (1) How many communities will be impacted by the decision to remove funding for a Merredin-based nurse practitioner?
- (2) Given that the WA Country Health Service committed to the development of a sustainable service model in March 2021, why is the organisation yet to take over the delivery of this critical service?
- (3) If a sustainable service model will not be available by 31 December 2021, what alternative funding model will be in place to ensure basic health services in the eastern wheatbelt?
- (4) Can the minister provide an assurance that when the current nurse practitioner's contract concludes at the end of December 2021, there will be no gap in service provision for the many regional communities that will be impacted?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Health.

It is not possible to provide the requested information in the time required. I therefore ask the honourable member to place this question on notice.