

WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE — ICON CANCER CENTRE

311. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the *WA Country Health Service cancer strategy 2017–22*, current and future WACHS regional cancer services and the South Metropolitan Health Service media statement of 3 March 2023 about the new Icon Cancer Centre contract for Rockingham residents.

- (1) Has WACHS started planning for a regional cancer unit in the wheatbelt and radiation oncology consultation units in the wheatbelt, midwest, goldfields, Pilbara and Kimberley?
- (2) Has WACHS or the Department of Health approached the Icon Cancer Centre about expanding services from Midland into the wheatbelt?
- (3) If no to (1) or (2), why not?
- (4) Will WACHS release a new cancer strategy —
 - (a) if yes, when can this be expected and what time frame will the strategy focus on; and
 - (b) if no, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The wheatbelt has regional cancer services and two chemotherapy units. Radiation oncology consults currently occur via telehealth in the wheatbelt, midwest, goldfields, Pilbara and Kimberley. Suitable patients may be referred to the Icon Cancer Centre. Patients who travel for cancer services are eligible for the patient assisted travel scheme when the service is not provided locally.
- (2) No.
- (3) WA Country Health Service wheatbelt health meets the designated clinical services framework levels for oncology and haematology services.
- (4) (a)–(b) Yes, work is currently underway on a future WACHS cancer strategy 2024–29.