

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATION PLAN — REGIONS

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

I ask this question on behalf of Hon Martin Aldridge, who is away on urgent parliamentary business.

I refer to *Local government area (LGA) COVID-19 vaccine rates* and the *SA4–Geographic vaccination rates*, both published by the commonwealth on 11 October 2021, that identify that parts of regional Western Australia have the lowest vaccination uptake in Australia, and to question without notice 616 that Hon Martin Aldridge asked in this place on 2 September.

- (1) Can the minister please outline the state government’s strategy to address the critically low rates of vaccination uptake in regional WA, particularly in the state’s north?
- (2) Is the minister considering any incentives to ensure communities in WA’s north have access to the vaccination in a timely manner; and, if so, please provide detail?
- (3) Has the minister written to the commonwealth to request local government area vaccine rates for remote communities classified as outback north and outback south so we can have a more transparent overview of the gaps in the vaccine rollout?
- (4) Please table any correspondence in relation to (3).

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question, which I provide on behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Health.

- (1) The WA Country Health Service is rolling out mass vaccination clinics in priority areas across regional Western Australia. The mass vaccination clinics are delivered in partnership with other health service providers, including Aboriginal medical services, general practitioners, Aspen Medical and pharmacies and supported by local organisations and industry. Mass vaccination clinics have been held in towns in the Kimberley, Pilbara and southern regions, with further towns being planned across the midwest, goldfields, south west and wheatbelt. The pop-up mass clinics are in addition to the WACHS-run vaccination clinics available at regional hospitals, small hospitals and nursing posts across country Western Australia.
- (2) No.
- (3) WA Health has requested that the commonwealth provide increased access to information about vaccinations in remote communities—in particular, vaccination rates.
- (4) Not applicable.