

CORONAVIRUS — V-CHEK COVID-19 ANTIGEN SALIVA TEST

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

I refer to concerns expressed by parents of children attending schools throughout the Esperance district, as well as local constituents, regarding the accuracy of the V-Chek COVID-19 antigen saliva test distributed to schools by the state government.

- (1) Can the minister please confirm the level of accuracy for the —
 - (a) V-Chek COVID-19 antigen saliva test;
 - (b) V-Chek COVID-19 rapid home nasal test, as distributed by the state government; and
 - (c) polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, tests as undertaken by the state government?
- (2) Has the government received any health advice regarding the propensity for schoolchildren undertaking the V-Chek COVID-19 antigen saliva test to falsely test negative; and, if so, can that advice be tabled?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)
 - (a)–(b) Rapid antigen tests that are approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration must have a sensitivity of 80 per cent or above. The TGA classifies V-Chek COVID-19 antigen saliva tests as having very high sensitivity, with a clinical sensitivity greater than 95 per cent. The test accuracy of the V-Chek COVID-19 rapid home nasal test is reported by the manufacturer as 98 per cent.
 - (c) PCR tests, as undertaken by the state government, are the gold standard for the diagnosis of COVID-19 as they are the most accurate tests available, being more sensitive than the COVID-19 antigen tests.
- (2) No.