

BENTLEY HEALTH SERVICE — PULMONARY REHABILITATION CLASSES

**727. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to an allegation made in this house yesterday that pulmonary rehabilitation classes at Bentley Health Service are to be cut. Can the minister advise whether the assertions of the opposition have any substance at this time?

**Dr K.D. HAMES replied:**

I must admit to this house that I made a mistake yesterday. My staff listening to this will be surprised to hear me say that, because I do not say it too often. When the shadow —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** I know that all members will be surprised.

However, when the shadow Minister for Health made the assertion that the pulmonary rehabilitation unit had been shut and then opened at my direction and then shut again, I accepted what he said at face value. I said that the first two parts of that assertion were true but I did not know about the closure and I would find out. The mistake I made was not saying before I sat down “but I never really trust what members of the opposition say”. I should have asked, “Are you really telling the truth?” I failed to do that.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** Or you could have asked, “Have you got the letters?” I have the correspondence.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Guess what I found? The rehabilitation unit is not being shut.

I have correspondence too, member for Kwinana, to show that it is not being shut. The funding and the staffing are the same. That service is seeing 20 patients, twice a week. It is true that three to four patients, instead of taking two classes a week, are taking one class a week. Why is that? Is it because that brutal rehabilitation group is slashing funding and reducing staff? No! Those staff train people in how to best take care of their chronic lung condition, and when they get better, they do not need to go so often. They need to go only once a week, not twice! That is why those classes have been reduced.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** That is not what the letter says.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** I do not care what the member’s letter says. I care what the person in that system has told me about what it is doing.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** Are you sure you are not misleading the house?

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** I am sure I am not misleading the house. I will never trust what the member for Kwinana says again!