

ROEBOURNE DISTRICT HOSPITAL

275. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What current services are provided by Roebourne hospital?
- (2) Are there any staff vacancies at the Roebourne hospital; and, if yes, what are they?
- (3) When are these vacancies expected to be filled?
- (4) Are there any plans to downgrade or remove services provided at the Roebourne hospital; and, if yes, what services will be cut?
- (5) Is the minister planning to close the Roebourne hospital; and, if yes, when?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question.

- (1) The services currently provided by the Roebourne hospital are emergency department services; home and community care; inpatient clinical care, including paediatrics; care waiting placement; the provision of pathology collection, inpatient pharmacy; physiotherapy; telehealth medical; and other consultations.
- (2) Currently there six FTE nursing vacancies filled by agency nursing staff. There are 12 FTE in the nursing establishment.
- (3) An advertising process occurred in November 2009 and resulted in no suitable applicants. A second advertising campaign is currently underway to extend the advertising to a broader audience. The WA Country Health Service, Pilbara, is also reviewing attraction and retention options such as staff housing allocations.
- (4) There is no planned removal of services. WA Country Health Service, Pilbara, is currently looking at improving the existing services provided in the area by co-locating population health and acute clinical services. Renovations are also planned to improve access to the emergency department area.
- (5) There are no plans to close Roebourne hospital. WACHS, Pilbara, undertook community consultation on 25 and 26 March 2010 to gain input to future service improvements and priorities that the community would like to access at Roebourne hospital in the future.