

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTRE

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

I refer to the Minister for Health's answer to question without notice 639 about the Eastern Goldfields Sexual Assault Resource Centre.

- (1) What kind of service provider—a stand-alone service or other type of service—did the Department of Health have in mind when it advertised for a sexual assault support service in the Kalgoorlie–Boulder region?
- (2) Will a stand-alone service be considered, given the difficulties the Eastern Goldfields Sexual Assault Resource Centre found when it operated as a stand-alone service?
- (3) If yes to (2), what measures will the Department of Health put in place to ensure that the new service provider's operation in the region will not encounter the same difficulties as were encountered by the Eastern Goldfields Sexual Assault Resource Centre?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

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

- (1) The Department of Health is seeking an agency with experience in providing human services in sensitive areas such as sexual assault; the ability to employ suitably qualified staff and provide professional supervision for those staff; an established network with other service providers in the region; and the ability to build on and develop other networks and partnerships, specifically with Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and the police.
- (2) Yes. It depends on proven leadership and service success, the financial stability of the service and the service's networks in the community with other service providers.
- (3) The Department of Health maintains ongoing communication with all the regional sexual assault services. In addition, as part of the routine contracting process, six-monthly reports are received to ensure that agreed outcomes are being met and to identify any difficulties that may be occurring. A meeting in Perth is planned for November this year to identify and address any specific issues that regional sexual assault services may be encountering and to determine how the Department of Health can be of assistance. The services are also encouraged to maintain contact with each other or seek support and guidance from the Sexual Assault Resource Centre in Perth.