

YALGOO NURSING POST — PERMANENT NURSE

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

I refer to the government's commitment to reduce its reliance on hiring private agency nursing staff.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that Yalgoo is still without a permanent nurse and that the position is being filled by the use of agency nurses on short-term, three-month contracts?
- (2) Has the Health Corporate Network readvertised to attract a permanent full-time nurse to the position since November 2009; and, if so, how many times has it advertised this position and how many applications were received?
- (3) When was the last time that the Yalgoo nursing post had a permanent resident nurse?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Health has provided this information —

- (1) Yalgoo remains without a permanent registered nurse. Agency nurses are being utilised to provide nursing cover via contracts of varying lengths depending on availability.
- (2) The position has been advertised on four occasions since November 2009. In November 2009 there were two applicants, one of whom was deemed suitable and accepted the position. The successful applicant later withdrew. In January 2010, April 2010 and July 2010, there was a single applicant who was deemed unsuitable on each occasion. The WA Country Health Service in the Mid West is intending to readvertise the permanent position in September 2010.
- (3) The last permanently employed nurse at Yalgoo completed service in May 2009.