

PALLIATIVE CARE BEDS — WAIT LIST

1439. Hon Ed Dermer to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

I refer to the Minister's answer to question on notice No. 1403, which was answered on 24 November 2009, in which the Minister advised that there were 88 specialist palliative care beds within Western Australia, of which 51 were public funded beds, and I ask —

- (1) How many Western Australians are currently waiting for a palliative care bed?
- (2) What is the average period of time between applying for access to a palliative care bed and receiving that access?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Information on the number of Western Australians currently waiting for a palliative care bed is not available. Patients who are on the waitlist are categorised by their underlying medical condition only and information is not recorded as to whether they may require palliative care.

If any patient requires urgent palliative care, the health services will admit these patients or ensure that they are transferred to a service that can provide appropriate care.

- (2) The average period of time between applying for access to a palliative care bed and being admitted for palliative care is unavailable within the public system data collection for Western Australia.