

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL — PAEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGISTS

380. Hon ED DERMER to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

Some notice of this question has been given.

- (1) What are the average waiting times for children listed as priority 1, 2 and 3 patients to see a paediatric gastroenterologist at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children?
- (2) Following that appointment, what is the average waiting time for surgery in each category?
- (3) How many paediatric gastroenterologists are employed in Western Australia, and at which hospitals are they employed?
- (4) How many vacancies currently exist for paediatric gastroenterologists in Western Australia, and at what hospitals are the vacancies located?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of this question.

- (1) Priority 1 patients are seen within 30 days. Priority 2 patients are seen within 290 days. Once seen, there is a follow-up appointment time of 160 days. There is no priority 3.
- (2) The time to endoscopic procedure following consultation is two to three months. These patients then require follow-up appointments.
- (3) Four consultant paediatric gastroenterologists are employed at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. This represents 2.5 full-time equivalents. There are no paediatric gastroenterologists practising in Western Australia outside PMH either in other public hospitals or in the private sector.
- (4) There is a 0.5 FTE vacancy at PMH.