

CHILD HEALTH NURSES — SOUTH WEST REGION

2956. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

I refer to Child Health Nurses (CHN) in the South West Region, and ask —

- (1) How many FTE CHN were allocated to —
 - (a) Bunbury;
 - (b) Busselton; and
 - (c) the South West region —

As at the following dates —

- (i) 1 July 1999;
 - (ii) 1 July 2005;
 - (iii) 1 July 2008; and
 - (iv) 1 July 2010?
- (2) In relation to (1), how many of the CHN FTEs worked at —
 - (a) a school; and
 - (b) a community health clinic/centre?
- (3) What is the current average waiting time for an appointment with a —
 - (a) school CHN; and
 - (b) community clinic/centre CHN —

At each of the following locations —

- (i) Bunbury;
- (ii) Busselton; and
- (iii) the South West region?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)
 - (a) Greater Bunbury Area includes Bunbury, Eaton, Australind, Dardanup and Capel: 6.1FTE and the Bunbury Shire locality: 2.1FTE
 - (b) Busselton: 2.0FTE
 - (c) (i)-(ii) Data not available. Data systems are not in place to accurately reflect the FTE in 1999 and 2005.
 - (iii) 20.0FTE
 - (iv) 20.2FTE
- (2)
 - (a) No Child Health Nurses work in School Health Services as part of their child health role. School health FTE is separate and specifically allocated to the school health function. All FTE listed in the response to question 1 is specific to child health.
 - (a) Child Health FTE is specifically allocated to the function of providing child health services. The FTE listed in question one is providing child health services only. Child Health Nurses work at or from a community health centre or child health clinic. All FTE listed work in a child health role.
- (3)
 - (a) In the South West region the average waiting time for an appointment with a school Child Health Nurse is 2 weeks. All child health appointments are prioritised. First home visits and other urgent issues are given preference.

High school students are seen as they present and wait lists are not kept for high school students. Alternative arrangements are also made for students to be seen by student services or be taken to the local Emergency Department if the presenting issue is urgent. Primary School Nurses do not operate on an appointment system, but visit schools when needed to complete screening, deliver immunisation or other health promotion programs.

- (b) In the South West region the average waiting time for an appointment with a community clinic/centre Child Health Nurse is 3 weeks. All child health appointments are prioritised. First home visits and other urgent issues are given preference.
- (i) Bunbury;
Child Health wait time: 2 weeks, all child health appointments are prioritised. First home visits and other urgent issues are given preference.
School Health wait time:
High school students are seen as they present, wait lists are not kept for high school students. Alternative arrangements are also made for students to be seen by student services or be taken to the local Emergency Department if the presenting issue is urgent. Primary School Nurses do not operate on an appointment system, but visit schools when needed to complete screening, deliver immunisation or other health promotion programs.
- (ii) Busselton
Child Health wait time: 3 weeks, all child health appointments are prioritised. First home visits and other urgent issues are given preference.
School Health wait time:
High school students are seen as they present, wait lists are not kept for high school students. Alternative arrangements are also made for students to be seen by student services or be taken to the local Emergency Department if the presenting issue is urgent.
- (iii) South West region
Child Health wait time: Average wait time for the whole South West Region is 2 weeks.
School Health wait time:
High school students are seen as they present, wait lists are not kept for high school students. Alternative arrangements are also made for students to be seen by student services or be taken to the local Emergency Department if the presenting issue is urgent.