

TJUNTJUNTJARA COMMUNITY — DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

I refer to the Goldfields–Esperance Development Commission project officer’s report titled “Tjuntjuntjara Visit”, dated 3 to 6 May 2010.

- (1) Has the minister or his department received a copy of the report highlighting the critical priority of dental health services in the Tjuntjuntjara community; and, if yes, when did they receive the report?
- (2) When was the minister and the department first made aware of the lack of dental services in the community?
- (3) What steps, if any, have been put in place to ensure that the community has access to dental services?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No, neither the minister nor dental health services have received a copy of this report.
- (2) Eligible Tjuntjuntjara community residents are able to access subsidised dental care from the public dental clinic in Boulder or the school dental service in Kalgoorlie–Boulder.
- (3) An alliance has been developed between the Tjuntjuntjara, Oak Valley and Yalata communities to source medical and dental services from Adelaide, South Australia. As noted in the answer to (2), eligible Tjuntjuntjara community residents are also able to access subsidised dental care from the public dental clinic in Boulder or the school dental service in Kalgoorlie–Boulder. Advice recently received from the visiting dentist to Tjuntjuntjara is that screening of all schoolchildren has been completed and treatment for those in need is being provided. This work is almost completed.