

DENMARK — AGED-CARE BEDS

807. Hon LINDA SAVAGE to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the minister recall his promise to the Denmark community when he opened Denmark's new hospital in February 2009 that extra aged-care beds would be provided when there was a demonstrated need?
- (2) Is it the case that the hospital was built with a capacity for 22 aged-care beds but is operating with only 12 aged-care beds?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the local general practitioners and health service providers, as well as many Denmark families who are desperate to find accommodation locally for people needing hospital care, are of the view that these extra beds should be provided as a matter of urgency?
- (4) How is the need for extra beds measured?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1) Yes. The redeveloped facility was planned to take account of future aged-care needs in Denmark and surrounding communities. The facility has operated with 12 residential aged-care places. This will progressively increase in response to demand.
- (2) The hospital was built with a capacity to meet future community needs. There is not a current demand for 22 aged-care beds.
- (3) The local health service is planning to open an additional three residential care beds in December 2010 to meet current demand.
- (4) Denmark multi-purpose services is provided with commonwealth aged-care funding on the basis of the population's assessed needs for residential and community-based aged-care services. As those requiring aged-care services move from community to residential care—after aged-care assessment team assessment—these funds follow. On this basis, the hospital has provided an additional three places for local residents. The current multipurpose service agreement is due for renewal in December 2010.