

BANNED DRINKERS REGISTER TRIAL — PILBARA

34. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the current banned drinkers register trial currently underway in the Pilbara.

- (1) When is the Pilbara banned drinkers register trial expected to end?
- (2) What key indicators will be measured to assess the effectiveness of the trial?
- (3) Will the minister consider extending the trial into the Kimberley before the end of the Pilbara trial period, as per a recommendation from the inquest into Kimberley youth suicides?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response.

- (1)–(3) Members in this place have shown a keen and genuine interest in pursuing the banned drinkers register trial. The minister is appreciative of the member’s enthusiasm and hopes that it will continue. The trial is expected to commence in the first half of this year.

The minister has advised that, based on discussions and advice from the University of Western Australia’s Public Policy Institute, the trial is expected to take some 24 months. As part of its role on the project, UWA will determine a robust evaluation framework, including key indicators that will be measured in order to ascertain whether it has been successful. These indicators are likely to be reached through consultation with key stakeholders, including those located in the Pilbara in key service organisations.

The coroner’s findings in the inquest into Kimberley youth suicides will be considered in detail over the coming months to determine what action should be taken by regulators to address the role that alcohol misuse has in youth suicide. The minister is mindful that early introduction of any initiative that has not been proven effective or does not include essential support services may be detrimental. However, this matter will be assessed as part of a holistic approach to alcohol abuse.