

WYNDHAM HEALTH FACILITIES

414. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the recent budget allocation for health facilities in Wyndham.

- (1) Will the redevelopment of the Wyndham District Hospital into a multipurpose centre lead to a reduction in the number of hospital beds that are currently available in Wyndham?
- (2) In the event that patient numbers exceed the number of available beds in the refurbished hospital, to what hospital or facility will patients be directed?
- (3) What transport arrangements will be put in place to transfer excess patients to other facilities?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. The redevelopment will reduce the number of beds from eight to four. The current bed occupancy rate is 3.5. The number of beds in the redeveloped facility is based on past patient activity and population projections for Wyndham and its surrounding communities.
- (2) In the event that patient numbers exceed the number of beds available in the refurbished hospital, patients will be transferred to the 32-bed Kununurra District Hospital or, if they require residential aged care, they may be moved to the 10-bed residential aged care facility that is attached to the Kununurra District Hospital.
- (3) A Wyndham District Hospital vehicle will be available to transport excess patients to Kununurra District Hospital. In the event that a doctor considers that a patient requires clinical support for the journey, the local volunteer St John Ambulance Association ambulance could be used. These methods of transport are currently available and will continue.