

PAEDIATRIC SERVICES — SOUTH WEST REGION

2955. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

I refer to paediatric services in the South West region, and ask —

- (1) For each of 2008 and 2009, how many FTE paediatricians work in the South West region?
- (2) In relation to (1), for each of 2008 and 2009, how many FTEs were employed in —
 - (a) the public health system; and
 - (b) the private health system?
- (3) In relation to (2)(a) and (b), for each of 2008 and 2009, how many of the FTEs resided in the South West Region?
- (4) In relation to (3), how many of the FTE paediatricians have specialist qualifications in the area of —
 - (a) substance abuse;
 - (b) mental health illness; and
 - (c) autism?
- (5) What is the average waiting time for an appointment with a paediatrician in —
 - (a) the metropolitan area;
 - (b) the South West region;
 - (c) Bunbury; and
 - (d) Busselton?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) 2008 — 3 FTE
2009 — 4 FTE
- (2) (a) 2008 — 1.5 FTE (for the WA Country Health Service — South West)
2009 — 2 FTE (for the WA Country Health Service — South West)
(b) 2008 — 1.5 FTE
2009 — 2 FTE
- (3) 2008 — all resided in South West.
2009 — all resided in South West
- (4) (a)-(c) A Paediatrician is a specialist physician who looks after infants and children with medical problems which may include substance abuse, mental illness and autism.
- (5) (a) At Princess Margaret Hospital, the average waiting time is approximately 128 days. (It ranges from 55-280 days.)
(b)-(d) 28-42 days approximately.