

OUTPATIENT NON-ESSENTIAL MEDICAL CARE — FEE

**1029. Hon KEN BASTON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the standard fee of \$280 for an outpatient appointment at a public hospital for non-essential medical care as outlined in the “WA Health Patient Fees and Charges Manual”.

- (1) Is the \$280 standard fee for this service set at, or above, cost recovery level?
- (2) Will the minister consider using a ministerial order to reduce this fee for patients who live in remote areas and who have no other option than to access WA Health for such appointments?

**Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No. The fee is below cost recovery.
- (2) Existing provisions within the Health Services Act 2016—section 33(6)—allow for fees to be waived by a health service provider board when it considers it is reasonable to do so having regard to the individual circumstances of the case.