

SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES — SOUTH WEST REGION

2962. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

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

- (1) For each of 2008, 2009 and 2010, how many FTE speech therapists worked in the South West Region?
- (2) In relation to (1), for each of the years specified —
 - (a) how many FTE speech therapists resided in the South West region; and
 - (b) how many FTE speech therapists —
 - (i) worked in the public health system;
 - (ii) worked in the private health system;
 - (iii) specialist child speech therapists in the public health system;
 - (iv) specialist child speech therapists in the private health system;
 - (v) specialist child autism speech therapists in the public health system; and
 - (vi) specialist child autism speech therapists in the private health system?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) 2008: 13.3 FTE — employed by the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) — South West.
2009: 13.3 FTE — employed by WACHS — South West.
2010: 13.3 FTE — employed by WACHS — South West. This will increase shortly to 14.3 FTE due to additional funding allocation.
- (2) (a) For those employed by WACHS — South West, 13 FTE resided in the South West for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010.
 - (b) (i) 13.3 FTE — employed by WACHS-South West.
 - (ii) This information is not known to the health service.
 - (iii) The majority of Speech Pathologists employed by WACHS — South West work across the care and age continuum; working predominantly in the area of Paediatrics but also assessing and supporting adult patients as required. Approximately 12.3 FTE work in the area of Paediatric Speech Pathology though it should be noted that this is an approximation and may vary slightly depending on the demands from the acute environment.
 - (iv) This information is not known to the health service.
 - (v) WACHS — South West does not have any speech pathologists that specialise in Autism solely. WACHS — South West does have 3 FTE Speech Pathologists that are employees specifically to work with clients with complex disabilities.
 - (vi) This information is not known to the health service.