

PALLIATIVE CARE

1403. Hon Ed Dermer to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

- (1) How many Western Australians received palliative care in 2008?
- (2) What is the Minister's best estimate, of how many Western Australians sought palliative care in 2008?
- (3) What is the average period of time, between a Western Australian patient applying for and receiving palliative care?
- (4) How many palliative care beds are available in Western Australia?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Currently the information system within the Department of Health only captures palliative care "care type" which reflects patients admitted into hospital beds. This does not give a true reflection of the scope of specialist palliative care provided throughout the State. The following patient numbers have been collated by obtaining additional data directly from each palliative care service.

The total number of patients receiving palliative care from specialist palliative care services in Western Australia from 1 January to 31 December in 2008 was 8,125.

Royal Perth Palliative Care Team (PCT): 1084  
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital PCT: 896  
Silver Chain Hospice Home Care: 2709  
Fremantle Hospital PCT: 573  
Bethesda Hospital Palliative Care Unit (PCU): 336  
Murdoch Community Hospice: 441  
Peel Community Palliative Care Service: 229  
Kalamunda Hospital PCU: 78  
Albany Palliative Care: 190  
Geraldton Palliative Care: 119  
St John of God Subiaco: 444  
Bunbury St John of God: 156  
Glengarry Private Hospital: 174  
Princess Margaret Hospital: 42  
Hollywood Private Hospital PCU: 479  
Busselton Hospice: 65  
Joondalup Health Campus: 53  
Avon Hospice Service — Northam: 57

- (2) Accurate data on patients who sought palliative care is unavailable.
- (3) Average length of time from referral to receiving care is not available within the public system data collection for Western Australia but the national palliative care data (inclusive of the key Western Australian palliative care services) shows that 87% of inpatients are seen within 48 hours and community patients 62.9%. Silver Chain Hospice Home Care contact all community patients within 24 hours of referral.
- (4) There are currently 88 specialist palliative care beds in the State, of which 51 are Public funded beds.