

AFTER-HOURS GP CLINIC — BUNBURY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

729. Hon ADELE FARINA to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the after-hours general practitioner clinic attached to Bunbury Regional Hospital, which will be opened next month.

- (1) How many GPs will be servicing the clinic?
- (2) Given that Bunbury GPs are already overworked, where are the GPs coming from to service the clinic?
- (3) How many GPs will be on duty at any time at the clinic?
- (4) As the peak pressure periods for the emergency department are Friday and Saturday evenings and public holidays from about 10.00 pm onwards, how will the clinic ease pressure on the emergency department, given that the clinic closes at 10.00 pm on weekdays, 8.00 pm on Saturday and 6.00 pm on Sunday and public holidays?
- (5) How much of the funding for the clinic is federal government funding?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question, in response to which the Minister for Health advises —

- (1) The number of GPs servicing the clinic is unknown but the pool of GPs is drawn from the local area.
- (2) The GPs who have agreed to provide their services are from local practices in the Bunbury area.
- (3) One GP will be available for each session.
- (4) The impact of this after-hours GP service on the reduction in triage category 4 and 5 patients seen at Bunbury Regional Hospital will be evaluated by the hospital during the following 12 months.
- (5) None.