

HOSPITALS — PUBLIC — FOOD AND DRINK

248. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to food and beverages offered in public hospitals to patients, staff and visitors.

- (1) Can the minister please table the relevant policies that restrict or guide the sale of food and beverage or supply of same to patients?
- (2) Does the Department of Health apply a traffic light system to food and beverage —

The PRESIDENT: Order, members. Can we just have a bit of order in the chamber, thank you. Sorry to interrupt, Hon Martin Aldridge.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: I continue —

in health facilities in a similar way to which its WA School Food and Drink Criteria applies to schools?

- (3) Do pies, sausage rolls, pastries, ham and cheese sandwiches, whether toasted or not, and hot potato chips sold or supplied in public hospitals comply with the “nutrient criteria” expected of schools?
- (4) If no to (3), does the minister support the Department of Health’s hypocrisy by telling school canteens to do one thing whilst public hospitals do another?

Hon PIERRE YANG replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Health.

- (1) The Department of Health’s *Healthy options WA: Food and nutrition policy for WA health services and facilities* applies to retail outlets and vending machines in public healthcare facilities. This policy does not apply to hospital inpatient and aged-care resident meals or food and drinks brought in by staff members, patients and visitors for personal consumption.

I table the policy.

[See paper [3046](#).]

- (2) Yes.
- (3) The criteria used to classify food and drink in schools underpins the Department of Education’s *Student health in public schools procedures*, appendix B, “Healthy food and drink”. The Department of Health has a separate policy, with its own criteria, that applies to retail outlets and vending machines in public healthcare facilities.
- (4) The policy that applies to schools is set by the Department of Education.