

HEALTH — DOCTORS — NARROGIN HOSPITAL AND KATANNING HOSPITAL

1020. Hon Steve Martin to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to recent concerns raised by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners that the Western Australian rural hospital system is overburdened and overrun with patients, and I ask:

- (a) (a) for each shift from Monday, 12 September to Sunday, 18 of September how many doctors were allocated/ rostered to work at Narrogin Hospital and Katanning Hospital; and
- (b) (b) how many doctors were actually present and working at Narrogin Hospital and Katanning Hospital?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

(a)–(b) Narrogin Hospital and Katanning Hospital were adequately covered at all times from 12 to 18 September.

On weekdays, five doctors are rostered to attend Narrogin Hospital and a further three doctors are rostered on an on-call basis. On 12, 13, 14 and 16 September one on-call shift was unable to be filled.

On weekends, four doctors are rostered to attend Narrogin Hospital, and a further three doctors are rostered on an on-call basis. On 17 and 18 September one afternoon shift was unable to be filled noting that doctors were onsite at this time, as they were rostered on other shifts overlapping this time period.

At Katanning Hospital, from 12 to 18 September, one doctor was rostered on-call for the Emergency Department and attended onsite each day as required. There were four admitting private practitioners, whereby a doctor was on-site once a day for patient rounds only.

Emergency Telehealth Service, Inpatient Telehealth Service and Mental Health Inpatient Telehealth Service is available 24 hours for specialist back up.