

MORTALITY RATE

618. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the need to wait for a nationally consistent reporting approach to be able to comment on the significant increase in the number of deaths in Western Australia.

- (1) Why does the Western Australian Minister for Health need to follow a “nationally consistent approach” in order to comment on the 145 per cent increase in the number of deaths of Western Australians?
- (2) Noting information tabled by the minister in response to question without notice 532, asked on 17 May, why is the minister not able to comment on this data herself?
- (3) Noting the significant increases in dementia, diabetes and heart disease–related deaths, is the government investigating whether COVID-19-related policies contributed to these increases?
- (4) Will the number of excess deaths be investigated in detail by the independent review of WA’s COVID-19 response announced by the government in 2022; and, if not, why not?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1)–(4) Different methods for estimating excess mortality can yield different results. A nationally consistent approach allows comparisons across jurisdictions and gives a better benchmark. The Department of Health will continue to monitor mortality data.