

RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE — KIMBERLEY

291. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

My question refers to the rate of preventable rheumatic heart disease in the Kimberley region, which is closely related to home hygiene and living conditions. I note that there are more than 700 cases in the Kimberley, which represents almost half of all cases in Western Australia and almost eight per cent of all cases in Australia.

- (1) Does the Department of Communities have a strategy to reduce rheumatic heart disease in the Kimberley?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is that strategy?
- (3) Does the Department of Communities undertake regular home inspections of both remote Aboriginal housing and social housing that it manages in the Kimberley?
- (4) How often are those inspections undertaken?
- (5) What measures are implemented when housing is found not hygienic or suitable for children?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1)–(2) These questions fall under the remit of the Minister for Health. As such, the honourable member should ask his question to the relevant minister.
- (3)–(4) Yes. The Department of Communities undertakes annual inspections for social housing and biannual inspections for remote Aboriginal housing.
- (5) In situations whereby Communities manages the housing or tenancy, tenants are offered a range of support services to assist them to remediate any issues, and the Department of Communities housing officers will work with Communities child protection staff regarding child safety concerns.