

CORONAVIRUS — HEALTH MODELLING

**319. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to the number of new daily COVID-19 cases, the daily hospitalisation rate of COVID patients and the number of COVID cases in ICU compared with the modelling done by the Department of Health.

- (1) Does the Premier have faith in the COVID modelling released in February this year, and is this modelling accurate?
- (2) If no to (1), what alternative modelling is the Premier using or does he have access to?
- (3) If yes to (1), at what point will the Premier use the modelling to deliver an exit plan for restrictions?
- (4) With patronage of 45 000 people at Optus Stadium on Sunday, what does that equate to in square metres per person?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) The COVID-19 modelling can be a useful indicator of potential scenarios based on specific assumptions. As the Premier has previously stated, modelling is difficult to apply to the Western Australian context due to the world-leading vaccination rates. I note the Department of Health publishes a bi-weekly report each Tuesday and Friday on Western Australia's COVID-19 outcomes. Each report compares actual cases, hospitalisations and ICU admissions against scenario modelling.
- (4) The Chief Health Officer's advice on 24 March 2022 recommended that a 75 per cent capacity for major stadiums, including Optus Stadium, be implemented. This was effective from 12.01 am on Thursday, 31 March 2022. There was no requirement for a square metre capacity limit for the AFL game at Optus Stadium on Sunday, 3 April 2022.