



Parliament of Western Australia
Legislative Council

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Member for Mining & Pastoral Region

Shadow Minister for Disability Services; Mental Health; Child Protection

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Hon Simon O'Brien MLC

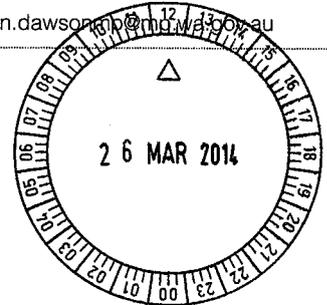
Chairman

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Parliament House

Harvest Terrace

PERTH WA 6000



21 March 2014

Dear Chairman *Simon*

Petition No 29 – Increase Access to Ultrasound Facilities in the Pilbara Region

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission in support of Petition No 29 – Increase Access to Ultrasound Facilities in the Pilbara Region, which I tabled in the Legislative Council on 18 February 2014.

Over the past few months I have had a range of concerns raised with me regarding the lack of ultrasound facilities in North West communities. Constituents who are undergoing fertility treatments are required to attend one ultrasound per cycle to assess the stage in which cycle is progressing and to avoid serious cases of ovarian hyper stimulation.

Emergency ultrasounds need to be available to all members of the public at any given time due to the uncertainty of pregnancy or other related issues such as ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, failure to detect heartbeat, ovarian cysts and even other serious complications such as heart conditions, thyroid, tests, uterus, breasts, joints, ligaments, skin, eyes, hips and spine.

I, along with a number of my constituents, am concerned with the lack of ultrasound facilities in the Pilbara. Having to travel as far as Perth or even to Port Hedland adds more stress to an already stressful situation.

Providing obstetrics and increased ultrasound facilities would certainly lower the stress of pregnancy, fertility treatments and other conditions that comes with living remotely.

There are a number of things that could be done to improve this situation including:

- Increasing the one day a week services to Tom Price and Newman
- Longer treating hours
- Emergency ultrasounds readily available

I believe that these important actions would benefit everyone in the area.

Your attention to this issue will be greatly valued by the community in Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

Yours sincerely

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
Member for Mining and Pastoral Region