

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS — FOUR-HOUR TREATMENT RULE

1624. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health

- (1) Could the Minister please detail the number of patients and the percentage of patients that presented at Emergency Departments and were treated within 4 hours consistent with the requirements of the soon-to-be-implemented 4-Hour Rule at the following hospitals:
 - (a) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
 - (b) Swan Districts Hospital;
 - (c) Royal Perth Hospital;
 - (d) Armadale/Kelmscott Hospital;
 - (e) Fremantle Hospital;
 - (f) Rockingham Hospital;
 - (g) Peel Health Campus;
 - (h) Joondalup Hospital;
 - (i) all metropolitan hospitals; and
 - (j) all Western Australian country hospitals?
- (2) Could the Minister please detail the number of patients and the percentage of patients that presented at Emergency Departments and were treated within 4 hours consistent with the requirements of the soon to be implemented 4-Hour Rule for the following periods:
 - (a) April – June 2007;
 - (b) July – September 2007;
 - (c) October – December 2007;
 - (d) January – March 2008;
 - (e) April – June 2008;
 - (f) July – September 2008;
 - (g) October – December 2008;
 - (h) January – March 2009; and
 - (i) April – June 2009?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

(1)-(2) [See paper 1584.]

The Member will be aware that the Four Hour Rule (FHR) Program commences in three stages, and that the Program is underpinned by a rigorous methodology. Stage One hospitals commenced in April 2009 and they are completing the detailed diagnostic phase of the Program. Little movement towards the target is expected during the diagnostic phase. Program targets are specified over a two-year period, culminating in the planned attainment of 98 per cent of patients arriving at emergency departments are to be seen and admitted, transferred or discharged within a four-hour timeframe, unless they are required to remain within the emergency department for clinical reasons.

Stage Two hospitals commenced in October 2009.

Quarterly data on progress under the FHR Program is available on the internet at: www.health.wa.gov.au/fourhourrule/home/monitoring.cfm