

JIGALONG CLINIC — POWER SUPPLY

1635. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs

- (1) What will the Deputy Premier's portfolio agencies do to ensure the long-running phase and power surge problems at Jigalong Clinic are fixed urgently?
- (2) Can the Deputy Premier advise which agency is responsible for fixing the problem which has prevented the two large air conditioners at the clinic from being used?
- (3) Can the Deputy Premier advise as to whom can the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, who operate the Jigalong Clinic, send their application to recover the cost of damage to medical and diagnostic equipment, and office and living quarters' electrical goods that have needed repair or been damaged and written-off and have had to be replaced as a result of the problems with current power supply?
- (4) Will the government take steps to ensure that a permanent back-up generator is provided to the Jigalong Clinic so that:
 - (a) the air conditioners can be used and valued and difficult to source nursing staff are not lost because of unacceptable working conditions; and
 - (b) expensive refrigerated pharmaceuticals and immunisation doses are not thrown out?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1) The Department of Housing (Housing) maintains the power station, transformers and feeders at Jigalong. Under the Remote Area Essential Services Program (RAESP), Housing contracts the Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation (PMM) to deliver this service. Over the weekend of 10 and 11 October 2009, PMM staff, with the assistance of specialist technicians, installed a new transformer on the feeder line to the clinic ensuring a consistent power supply to the clinic. The CEO of the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS) has confirmed the power supply is operating.
- (2) Housing is the responsible agency. DIA has been advised by both Housing and PAMS that the issues affecting each individual air-conditioning unit have been resolved and the units are currently operating satisfactorily.
- (3) PAMS advises that it carries its own insurance and it is unlikely any claims will be lodged given the age of some of the equipment damaged. If more substantial equipment were damaged PAMS may have pursued claims with Western Power.
- (4) PAMS advises that while a backup generator would be welcomed, at present there is no place to store such equipment safely at or near the Clinic. PAMS is currently investigating works to add storage facilities to the existing clinic, which at the appropriate time will be progressed with the Commonwealth.