FREMANTLE HOSPITAL — TONI-LEE COMPTON AND SEAN GARVEY

688. Hon HELEN MORTON to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Will Fremantle Hospital make arrangements for Toni-Lee Compton to regularly visit her partner, Sean Garvey, with the couple’s four-week-old baby when Toni-Lee will no longer be accompanied by her mother or mother-in-law?

(2) As Sean Garvey is an involuntary patient and not capable of making his own decisions, is Toni-Lee Compton, his de facto wife of more than two years, able to access Sean Garvey’s medical notes?

(3) Given that Sean Garvey has an acquired brain injury, what arrangements are being made to move him out of the high-security mental health facility into a more appropriate rehabilitation facility?

(4) What action is being taken to ensure that Toni-Lee’s request for a second opinion regarding Sean’s potential rehabilitation is being taken seriously; that is, a new assessment will be undertaken by a completely separate clinical team at a different facility?

(5) Will the minister provide Toni-Lee with a copy of the letter that was supposedly sent to her saying that Sean was not to hold his baby?

(6) What action is being taken to follow through with Toni-Lee’s request for a second opinion regarding the risk of Sean holding and bonding with his four-week-old daughter?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

(1) Yes. The process is already in place following a successful visit earlier this week.

(2) The issue of de facto status is being investigated. If it is confirmed that Toni-Lee is Sean’s de facto wife and there is no issue of breach of confidentiality, Toni-Lee would be afforded the right to access his notes.

(3) Sean has been referred to all the existing services in Western Australia that cater for patients with an acquired brain injury. The treating team at Fremantle Hospital are of the opinion that an alternative placement for Sean would now be preferable. However, the other services have declined to accept Sean at this stage.

(4) At a family meeting attended by an advocate from the Health Consumers’ Council, the advocate agreed to make arrangements for another second opinion by a rehabilitation specialist.

(5) I am not aware of any such letter.

(6) The occupational therapist on the team discussed this issue with a psychologist at the state head injury unit at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. The advice received was that caution should be taken. Sean is confused and disoriented and there is the potential for him to regress and to become overwhelmed and potentially explosive. The treating team’s plan is to gradually introduce the baby to Sean, which will depend on his pattern of behaviour.