

METROPOLITAN PATIENTS DENTAL SUBSIDY SCHEME — CHANGES

1477. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Health

Following enquiries from Rockingham constituents concerning access to the Metropolitan Patients Dental Subsidy Scheme, I ask the Minister:

- (a) have there been recent changes to the procedure whereby patients can be treated by a private dentist and gain access to the Metropolitan Patients Dental Subsidy Scheme;
- (b) if yes to (a), what changes have been made to the procedure; and
- (c) if yes to (a), what measures were used to inform the public of these changes?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (a) Yes. These changes came into effect on 1 July 2009.
- (b) Eligible patients who receive emergency dental care must now attend a public dental clinic to have their emergency treatment needs assessed.

The public dental clinic will provide this emergency care if possible. If the public dental clinic is unable to provide this emergency dental care then an authority form will be issued to the patient so they can attend a participating private dental practitioner in the Metropolitan Patients' Dental Subsidy Scheme.

- (c) All participating private dental practitioners have been informed by a letter to their practice of these changes, dated 28 May 2009.

The private dental practitioner is in the best position to inform patients who contact their practice of the change in procedure in accessing subsidised emergency dental care through the Metropolitan Patients' Dental Subsidy Scheme.