

PUBLIC HOSPITALS — ASSAULTS AGAINST NURSES

1627. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many nurses have been assaulted by patients from 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009 at each of the following hospitals:
  - (a) Royal Perth Hospital;
  - (b) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
  - (c) Fremantle Hospital;
  - (d) Osborne Park Hospital;
  - (e) Joondalup Health Campus; and
  - (f) Graylands Hospital?
- (2) How many nurses in (1) received medical attention after being assaulted by patients?
- (3) What was the nature of each assault in (1)?
- (4) How many nurses working in public hospitals were threatened with assault from 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1)-(2) [See paper 1585.]
- (3) The nature of the alleged assaults on nurses by patients in (1) include: punching; kicking; push and shove; slapping; spitting; biting; scratching and clawing at hands; elbowed with force; alleged assault with equipment; armed with weapon; stabbed with an object; grabbing; muscular strain during restraints; hair pulling; pinching; smeared with faeces; and urinated on.
- (4) Threats of assault are not recorded. There was 827 reported incidents of alleged verbal assault on nurses in Western Australian public hospitals from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

Note: Includes all reported incidents of alleged verbal assaults in Western Australian public hospitals excluding Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH), and Joondalup and Peel Health Campuses.

SCGH is unable to differentiate between incidents reported of alleged verbal assault on nursing, medical or allied health staff.