

JIGALONG — HAEMODIALYSIS UNIT

1615. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Health

- (1) Can the Minister confirm the Haemodialysis Unit in Jigalong, opened on the 12 May 2009 by His Excellency, Dr Ken Michael, Governor of Western Australia is still not operational?
- (2) Can the Minister detail why this service is not yet operational?
- (3) Is the Department of Health working with the Jigalong Council to have this service operational?
- (4) When does the Minister expect the dialysis service in Jigalong to be fully operational?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes. However, it should be noted that the unit is not operated by the Department of Health.
- (2) The Jigalong Haemodialysis Unit is controlled and managed through a joint venture partnership between Newcrest Mining and Western Desert Land Council, based in Jigalong within the community. It has no attachment or affiliation with the community clinic operated by the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service.
- (3) No. The service is independently owned and operated and has been developed independently of Department of Health funding or other partnership arrangements. Department of Health has previously provided advice to the service partners, in terms of equipment purchase and clinical service planning during the establishment phase of the facility. This was informal, casual and infrequent and was not within the mandate of any formal commitment or collaboration.
- (4) The Minister is unable to provide a specific timeframe as to when the facility will be operational as it is a privately owned and operated facility.