

ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE — KIMBERLEY DISTRICT

2932. Ms J. Farrer to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the government media statement of May 8 2014 entitled *Supporting and Protecting the Community* and ask:

- (a) what is the proportion and amount of funding from the State-wide Aboriginal Mental Health Service that is allocated to the Kimberley;
- (b) noting the claim in the statement that the program has delivered positive early results, can the Minister please outline the evidence on which the claims are based; and
- (c) how does this reconcile with the Auditor General's findings in his report entitled *The Implementation and Initial Outcomes of the Suicide Prevention Strategy*?

Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:

- (a) From 1 July to 31 December 2014, 24.5% (\$1,164,820) of SSAMHS funding will be allocated to the Kimberley.
- (b) An interim evaluation of the State-wide Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service was undertaken by the Western Australian Centre for Mental Health Policy Research in 2012. The interim evaluation found the following:
 - An upward trend in the number of Aboriginal people coming in contact with mental health services;
 - A decline in the ratio of Aboriginal to non-Aboriginal people using Emergency Departments since the Metropolitan SAMHS started in July 2011;
 - A small but upward trend in the use of community-based services in the metropolitan area; and
 - A decline in the use of mental health inpatient units in the metropolitan area.Since 2010/11, the annual number of clinical contacts delivered to Aboriginal consumers by community mental health services has increased by more than 50% across Western Australia. (Source: Mental Health Information System, WA Department of Health. Data extracted 23 July 2014).
- (c) The Auditor General's findings acknowledged that communities and organisations have benefited from suicide prevention activities funded by the Western Australian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2009–2013 (the Strategy).