

COMMUNITY PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE — GOVERNMENT FUNDING

**380. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of the extreme concern amongst stroke victims and people with Parkinson's disease and other chronic illnesses about the government's refusal to provide adequate ongoing funding for the community physiotherapy service?
- (2) Can the minister outline how many classes will shortly be cancelled if full funding for this service is not forthcoming?
- (3) Can the minister estimate how many recipients of this service will be in hospitals and aged-care facilities before the year is out if their classes are cancelled; and how many highly skilled and experienced physiotherapists who work in this service will be lost from the public health sector?

**Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes. The community physiotherapy service is funded at \$1.4 million by the state government, which provides 3 360 classes per year. Under the national partnership agreement—subacute 2009–2013, CPS received \$1.24 million in federal funding to increase and diversify subacute activity. This funding delivered 2 880 classes per annum. The NPA ceased on 30 June 2013. The state government allocated an additional \$50 000 to sustain classes when the CPS reached its funded target in April, and has now committed a further \$300 000 up to the end of September 2013 to cover the lack of federal funding and allow classes to continue.
- (2) From 30 September 2013, 2 880 classes funded by the NPA will cease, unless other sources of funds are identified. The state government continues to pursue avenues for future funding so that the program can continue.
- (3) We are unable to speculate on numbers of recipients that potentially may enter hospital and aged-care facilities. All staff have been converted to casual contracts to enable employment to be maintained.