

PRISONS — SWINE FLU CASES

808. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) How many confirmed cases of swine flu are there among prisoners and staff within prisons in the metropolitan area?
- (2) How many confirmed cases of swine flu are there among prisoners and staff within prisons in Broome, Roebourne, Greenough, eastern goldfields, Bunbury and Albany?
- (3) What measures have been put in place to —
 - (a) treat affected prisoners and staff; and
 - (b) protect unaffected prisoners and staff?
- (4) In the event of a serious increase in the number of swine flu cases in Western Australian prisons, what contingency plans have been developed to ensure that the security of our prison system is maintained?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Corrective Services advises the following —

- (1) In regard to prisoners, sporadic cases of swine flu have appeared. However, no exact number is available as, in line with the national and state pandemic emergency plan, testing is not required unless compelling clinical indications exist. In regard to Department of Corrective Services staff, no exact number is available due to the confidentiality that exists between staff and their doctors. Staff are under no obligation to advise the department if they are infected with swine flu.
- (2) As per the response to (1).
- (3)
 - (a) Patients presenting with flu-like symptoms are comprehensively assessed based on clinical parameters and provided with treatment appropriate to their clinical condition and risk factors. Patients are isolated in accordance with the management guidelines used by all health facilities. In some cases, as required, patients may be transferred for secondary and tertiary health care.
 - (b) The department's health services adhere strictly to the national and state pandemic emergency plan. Personal protective equipment and prophylaxis is provided where indicated. Health services staff also reinforce infection control advice to prisoners. Educational broadcasts have been consistently forwarded throughout the department advising staff on hygiene practices to reduce possible transmission.
- (4) As articulated in the national and state pandemic emergency management plan. The department has a pandemic influenza management plan, which is aligned to the NSPEMP. Pandemic planning is part of each prison's local emergency management planning and will follow advice and direction from the health department.