

COMMUNITY PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES

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

I refer to the letter dated 9 April 2013 sent to clients of the Department of Health's Community Physiotherapy Services headed "Community Physiotherapy Services activity reductions".

- (1) Is it true that this activity reduction is due to the popularity of these services run in 15 different locations around the metropolitan area?
- (2) Is the minister aware that the services that have been cut are specifically designed for people with Parkinson's disease, who regard the classes as a critical part of their ability to cope with everyday life?
- (3) Why were clients given absolutely no personal or advance warning of these cuts, being informed in April that their term 2 classes would not recommence?
- (4) How can the minister justify cutting such a vital front-line health service?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Health —

- (1) Yes. Due to increased demand for the services and funding being fully expended, some services have been deferred. Community Physiotherapy Services is not a Parkinson's-specific service. CPS has always been state funded, and over recent years it has received additional federal funding to deliver up to 230 classes a week across the metropolitan area. These classes run in multiple locations.
- (2) Yes. Some Parkinson's classes under the Community Physiotherapy Services program, along with other condition-specific classes under the program, have been deferred. The minister has provided additional state funding for these classes to recommence and continue until the end of June 2013. Classes are currently being reinstated.
- (3) Clients were made aware as soon as possible about the deferring of their classes. Staff worked to minimise the impact on the clients and define which classes could be maintained over this period; it was felt that it was preferable to disrupting the classes across multiple terms.
- (4) The minister has not cut the services. The services have had a combination of federal and state funding. The federal funding has been spent due to the level of demand, and the minister has allocated \$50 000 of state funding to recommence the deferred classes and continue them until June 2013. The minister has written to the federal government requesting continued funding for this program.