

HEALTH, NORTH WEST, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

1046. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Health

I refer to the recent announcement that mental health services for Perth children will be expanded, following a State Government review into the relocation of the Selby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, and I ask -

- (a) do children in the North West of the State, with significant mental health problems, such as ADHD, eating disorders and schizophrenia, have access to specialised services close to their homes;
- (b) if not, why not; and
- (c) if so, in which towns and communities are the services located?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) Yes there are specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health professionals based in the northwest of the state. They form part of the North West Mental Health Service (NWMHS). The CAMHS professionals have the clinical supervision and support of a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr Prue Stone, via telepsychiatry. She also makes direct face to face visits to consolidate the development and skill acquisitions of the team. Team members also have timely access to the psychiatrists already employed within NWMH.
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) The professionals are located in the following:
  - 1 in Karratha,
  - 1 in Port Hedland,
  - 0.5 FTE Broome / 0.5 FTE Derby and
  - 1 in Kununurra.

There are also two positions for Youth Counsellors based in Derby and Port Hedland to provide support and counselling to young people deemed 'at risk' in the adolescent and young adult age group.

The Child and Adolescent team conducts regular visits to the townships of Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Marble Bar, Tom Price, Wickham, Roebourne and many of the more remote communities of the Pilbara and Kimberley.