

CORONAVIRUS — STATE OF EMERGENCY

204. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to part (4) of the minister's answer to my question without notice on 16 March concerning the public health state of emergency.

- (1) Why are the Chief Health Officer's authorisations in relation to administering and supplying or prescribing poisons, and the operation of vaccine clinics, wholly dependent on extending the statewide declared public health state of emergency?
- (2) Why is it possible to administer vaccinations for all other non-COVID-19 diseases in Western Australia without the need for a statewide declared public health state of emergency?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Registered health professionals working within the public health services, prison services or Aboriginal health services can administer COVID-19 vaccinations under structured administration and supply arrangements issued under regulation 33 of the Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016. Pharmacists providing COVID-19 vaccine services for registered community pharmacies are covered by a separate structured administration and supply arrangement. These approvals are not dependent on the public health state of emergency.

The Chief Health Officer's authorisations issued under the Public Health Act enable an additional workforce to assist in critical delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations during the public health state of emergency, such as students in final years of training as health professionals, under the direction of registered health professionals. These authorisations also enable commonwealth-contracted organisations to administer COVID-19 vaccines in residential aged-care facilities and, if required, enable Defence Force health professionals to be involved in COVID-19 clinics.
- (2) Structured administration and supply arrangements authorise health professionals to administer vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, and, therefore, are not dependent on the public health emergency.