

PAEDIATRICIAN — ALBANY

**939. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Why is a review required, given that the minister says that he believes a paediatrician is warranted, to prove that the families of the great southern and south west should have access to a full-time paediatrician when proponents of an unproven wave energy project are rewarded \$15 million without so much as a business case?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

We review these things on an ongoing basis because from time to time we have to decide whether we are achieving the levels of safety and quality in these sorts of areas that our high standards require. A lot of the time that comes down to volume; that is, if we have a particular hospital or clinic undertaking particular activities on a regular basis, it not only increases the scale and efficiencies, but also guarantees safety and quality which, as the member will appreciate, is the fundamental concern. We review not just paediatric services but all services on a regular basis to make sure we are achieving safety and quality.

I have no comment to make about the other matters that the member raised, other than to say that we regard Albany to be a very important area for providing world-class health services and we are achieving that through a great workforce. I look forward to that continuing to happen into the future.