STATE BUDGET 2013–14 — MENTAL HEALTH — STEP UP, STEP DOWN FACILITIES

410.   Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the minister's pre-election media statement on 26 February 2013 when she announced that new step up, step down facilities would be built in Bunbury and Karratha under the Liberal government's mental health plan. How much has been allocated in last week's budget for —

(a)   work on the planning and development of these two new facilities; and

(b)   work on the planning and development of subacute services in Rockingham, Broome and the goldfields?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

(a)   I reiterate how important I think the subacute facilities are for providing a much-needed alternative to acute care when people in hospital do not actually need to be there but cannot be discharged straightaway because they do not have a place to go. In this particular case we announced prior to the election that Karratha and Bunbury were the next two areas where we would provide subacute facilities; that is, after Joondalup, Rockingham, Broome and Kalgoorlie. The planning for these will be undertaken within existing resources. Following that information, we will be able to determine precisely in terms of time lines and budget outlines where this needs to be included in the budget. At this stage that information is not clear.

(b)   The funding for the planning and development of the services at Rockingham, Broome and the goldfields has been allocated in previous years. Approximately $3.1 million has been allocated for development of the Broome service, and $7.8 million for the Rockingham and the goldfields services. We will therefore be able to have the four that have already had funding allocated, and funding for the two that have planning already commenced will be put into the budget at the time we know it is most appropriate for that to happen.