

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — HEART HUB SOUTH WEST

**247. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Road Safety:**

I refer to the work done by Heart Hub South West in Collie, providing road trauma counselling and support services for families and community members devastated by the impact of road trauma. Given that the road trauma trust account currently has \$29 million in unallocated funding and noting that there will be a significant budget surplus, will the minister commit to fund this important service so it can continue to grow and support more regional families?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I thank the member for her question and the reference to Heart Hub. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition met Scott and Tarryn when she was in Collie recently.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** Yes, I did.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is a terrible situation that Tarryn encountered with the loss of her child. Her motivation for wanting to provide opportunities to educate others and prevent similar suffering by others is applauded. The issue with anything to do with the road trauma trust account and its management is that I do not do it. The Road Safety Council makes an assessment of applications for use of the funds. As people are aware, all the funds that accrue from infringements and penalties with regard to road safety cameras and the like go to the road trauma trust account and are then managed on recommendation from the Road Safety Council. It provides me with recommendations. It retains a small contingency, by necessity, each year. As the member is aware, questions have been asked about this in the other place. Otherwise, all the money is expended on appropriate measures and programs and grants recommended by the Road Safety Council. During the time I have been in the role, I do not recall disagreeing with its recommendations other than on one occasion, when I encouraged greater expenditure on a similar proposal relating to injury matters. There was funding for injury matters and I suggested that it might be expanded, and it was.