

KIMBERLEY — SUICIDES

4089. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Ministers' statement in parliament on 13 November 2013 regarding suicide in the Kimberley, and I ask:

- (a) how many Aboriginal deaths by suicide occurred in the Kimberley Region across the calendar years 2013 and 2014; and
- (b) how many official reports of attempted suicides or acts of self-harm occurred in the Kimberley Region across the calendar years 2013 and 2014?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

- (a)–(b) Since 2009 the State Government has invested \$21 million in the Western Australian Suicide Prevention Strategy (the Strategy), including \$3 million in 2014/15. Under the Strategy, approximately \$2.5 million has been invested in six Community Action Plans as well as suicide prevention training in the Kimberley region.

In addition to the Community Action Plans, the State Government has allocated \$29.1 million to the Statewide Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service delivered by the Department of Health, from 2014 - 2017, to support Aboriginal people with severe mental illness and their families in a culturally appropriate way. It is estimated that approximately \$6.4 million of that funding will be spent in the Kimberley region.

During 2014, more than \$56,000 was allocated to suicide prevention initiatives and training in the Kimberley area through the One Life suicide prevention small grants scheme.

In the State Coroner's Quarterly Report of Suicide Statistics to the Attorney General, the preliminary number of suicides by Aboriginal people under 25 in the Kimberley Region (Broome and Kununurra coronial jurisdictions) has shown a decreasing trend since 2011; however it should be noted that most of the recent cases are still awaiting a final determination by the Coroner. Any further information should be sought from the Attorney General.

In reference to my comments in November 2013, Department of Health data indicates there were 467 official reports of attempted suicide or acts of self-harm occurring in the Kimberley region. My comments in 2013 did not refer to data from the 2014 calendar year.