

MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA VACCINATION PROGRAM — KIMBERLEY

244. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can the minister confirm that there has been an outbreak of mumps in Wyndham recently; and, if so, when did it occur?
- (2) Are mumps vaccinations undertaken on a widespread basis in the Kimberley, especially in remote communities; and, if not, when did this vaccination program cease and for what reason?
- (3) If mumps vaccinations are still undertaken, what is the extent of the program, how regularly is it undertaken and in what areas is the program undertaken?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:

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

- (1) Yes, there has been a statewide mumps outbreak. More than 300 cases have been notified to the Kimberley population health unit since the outbreak began in March 2015.
- (2) Yes, vaccinations are undertaken throughout the Kimberley. The vaccination program has not ceased.
- (3) The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is part of the national childhood vaccination schedule and is administered at 12 months of age. A second vaccine of MMR and chickenpox is administered at 18 months of age. The immunisation program is continuous and is delivered through immunisation clinics in Kimberley towns and communities where children are located. Every effort is made to ensure all children are followed up. The completion rate is approximately 92 per cent for children. Adult booster MMR vaccines have been administered to target populations that include Derby, Broome, Fitzroy Valley, Wyndham and Kununurra together, and the remote communities of Warmun, Bidyadanga, Beagle Bay and One Arm Point. This is also part of the statewide outbreak response.