

MEDICAL SPECIALIST ASSISTANCE, MANDURAH AND PINJARRA

Mr TEMPLEMAN to the Minister for Health:

What assistance is the State Government giving to the people of Mandurah and Pinjarra who are trying to access medical specialist assistance?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for Mandurah for his question and for the enormous amount of work that he has done to ensure that -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Dawesville to order for the first time.

Mr KUCERA: The member for Dawesville should listen to what I have to say because the member for Mandurah ensured that the Government made a clear commitment to replace an essential service that had been withdrawn by the previous Government. I refer to the patient assisted travel scheme. In addition to the review currently being undertaken, this Government has extended PATS to Mandurah. Last week I was in Mandurah and I had the good grace to be there with the member for Mandurah. I spoke at length with a young woman whose son is desperately ill from cancer. He has to travel to the city on an almost daily basis and this has created an enormous impost on his family. The previous Government chose to remove what was a very equitable service for that particular group of people. At the end of the day the people of Mandurah are a long way away from essential services such as oncology. I am very pleased to say that last week I stood alongside the Premier in Mandurah when the Government announced the reinstatement of PATS. This is in addition to the \$4 million that we put back into the system last year. Mr Speaker, as you know from the discussions that I have had with you about PATS, this Government is totally committed to providing services to all Western Australians. I am happy to say that the Government has reintroduced PATS in Mandurah, and the people who desperately need those services now have them.