

MIDWIVES — PILBARA

**717. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to an email titled “Super urgent shout-out for midwives for the Pilbara”, calling out for midwives interested in short-term deployment from 8 November, dated 27 October from the WA health service, which states that Pilbara midwifery services are at “imminent risk of service failure”, and calls for available staff to name their terms. Has this situation been resolved so parents about to give birth in either Karratha or Port Hedland can have confidence in our health system?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

I am not familiar with the email that the member quoted from, but it does reflect an overall restriction in the workforce that we can attract to our system. I do not know whether the member has been listening, but the last four questions to me have been on this subject. It is not surprising that in country health services, those workforce constraints are felt much more acutely than in our big metropolitan centres. It is a reality of life that we need to continue to make sure that we can recruit experienced and new midwives to our services to make sure that we can continue to provide great health care.