

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — LEAD CONTAMINATION

593. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Minister for Water:

I refer to the lead contamination of water at Perth Children's Hospital.

- (1) What role has the Water Corporation or Department of Water had in the investigation of the contamination issue?
- (2) What advice has the minister received in relation to the lead contamination issue, and when did the minister receive that advice?
- (3) Has there been any indication that the lead contamination has affected elsewhere outside the children's hospital?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) The role of the Department of Water and the Water Corporation at this stage is limited to us offering Water Corporation expertise to assist with the contractors at this point to determine what is happening within the worksite. The advice I received came when the media broke it; I was not aware of the issue prior to that. It was not something that had come through my department or the Water Corporation. I was ill yesterday so I have not had a full briefing from my staff, other than to say that the Water Corporation has provided advice that it regularly—that is, once a year—tests for lead contamination. The Water Corporation is assuring me that it is not an issue in relation to our water supply, and the people supplied by—sorry; off the top of my head I cannot remember it—the supply source. The Water Corporation has said it is confident it is not that, and that it is relatively confident it has occurred within the site. The Water Corporation will be giving its assistance, if required, to the contractor.