

WEST BUSSELTON DENTAL THERAPY CLINIC

491. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to question without notice 428 asked on 7 June, the answer to which advised that one full-time equivalent dental therapist was employed at West Busselton dental therapy clinic.

- (1) Is the minister aware that as of 23 July 2007, the clinic will be operated only three days a week, as the current dental therapist has reduced her working hours?
- (2) Is there any intention to hire a second dental therapist to work the other two days?
- (3) If no to (2), what other plans are being made to ensure a full-time service?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Yes. The dental therapist has reduced her working days to enable her to undertake further study.
- (2) Yes. The West Busselton dental therapy centre requires 1.5 FTE dental therapists, and advertising for a full-time dental therapist is being undertaken.
- (3) In addition to the short-term strategies outlined above, 11 trainee school dental therapists will graduate at the end of 2007, and one will be placed at West Busselton at the beginning of 2008.