

MENTAL HEALTH WEB SITE

846. Mr T.K. WALDRON to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the minister's media statement of 18 June on the launch of the State Government's first dedicated mental health web site.

- (1) Is the minister aware that no mental health services are listed on that web site for regional Western Australia, other than for the south west, north west and Kimberley?
- (2) Will the minister rectify the situation by providing and listing mental health services for the thousands of people living in the great southern, mid west and Murchison, goldfields, south east and wheatbelt?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) I launched the web site yesterday morning. I had only a cursory look. If there is an issue, I am happy to take it up on behalf of the member. My understanding is that the web site is linked to each of the health services across the State. It may be that, as the site was launched only yesterday, there was an oversight. The web site has some unique features. For the first time, there is an interactive program for which clinicians must register. General practitioners and nurses working in country areas can log on to a registered site to access case studies. It is a unique program. It is part of the process of rolling out a much better health service across the State. It allows people in rural communities to access services in a more modern and innovative way.

Mental health is an important issue. The Premier spoke today about some of the links with federal programs to arrange broadbanding into country areas. Mental health is very well suited for telepsychiatry and telehealth; it is very suitable for interactive programs. If the member perceives a difficulty, I am happy to put him in touch with Dr Groves. If there is a gap in the service, his staff will be only too happy to fill it. I thank the member for bringing this to my attention.