

AMITY HEALTH CENTRE — NEUROLOGISTS

948. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I understand that as of 30 June 2015, the federal government cut the workforce payment for visiting neurologists visiting patients in Albany at the not-for-profit Amity Health Centre, and as such I believe that Albany is now presently without a neurologist.

- (1) Will the state government consider providing an interim visiting neurologist at Albany Regional Hospital so that Albany patients do not have to travel to Perth for these services?
- (2) How many patient assisted travel scheme claims has the state government received for neurology patients living in the great southern region who have travelled to Perth to access these services since 30 June 2015?
- (3) What has been the total value of these PATS claims from neurology patients in the great southern who now have to travel to Perth?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health, I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Health.

- (1) There are no plans for the WA Country Health Service to employ a consultant neurologist in Albany. The WA Country Health Service understands that at present Amity Health continues to receive funding for transport and accommodation costs to support neurology services to the Albany area via Rural Health West, funded by the commonwealth government.
- (2) Since 30 June 2015, there have been 55 patient assisted travel scheme claims for neurology services.
- (3) The total value is \$11 121.00.