

ELDERLY PEOPLE, COMMUNITY-BASED TREATMENT

**365. Mr LOGAN to the Minister for Health:**

Will the minister explain the initiatives that are being introduced to provide the elderly with community-based treatment?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Health, if he heard the question.

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was given some notice of the question, so I know what it concerns even if I could not hear it above the cacophony of noise from the other side.

It is vital that the community help elderly people retain their independence for as long as possible and, where possible, help them to stay in their own homes by giving them the ongoing support that they need and deserve. I acknowledge my predecessor the member for Darling Range with one such initiative - the opening of the Moss Street Day Therapy Unit in Fremantle, which will offer community-based treatment, assessment and rehabilitation facilities for up to 20 elderly patients a day. This centre will add to the already impressive array of health services in Fremantle and will address a growing need in the community. This centre will treat health problems that have traditionally forced elderly people out of their homes and into residential care. The Moss Street Day Therapy Unit is staffed by a multidisciplinary team including a consultant geriatrician, a nurse coordinator, a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist, a social worker, a speech pathologist and a dietician. Western Australia's population is ageing, so it is important that services are designed to address the needs of our older population and to enable them to remain independent and to enjoy an optimum quality of life.

Mr Barnett: Are you reading an answer to a dorothy dixer? You should give this as a ministerial statement!

Dr Gallop: Life is much more enjoyable than you think it is!

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Hyde interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Perth!

Mr Hyde: You would rather have 30 people in your own seat!

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Perth to order for the first time!