

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — MORGUE FACILITIES

771. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the body storage capacity of the Department of Health's morgue facilities in the Kimberley, the Pilbara and the goldfields?
- (2) How many bodies are currently held in the Department of Health's morgue facilities in Kimberley, the Pilbara and the goldfields and are unable to be transferred to a funeral director because there is no-one able to pay the funeral costs?
- (3) Are there any Department of Health morgue facilities in the Kimberley, Pilbara or goldfields at capacity; and, if so, which facilities?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1) The body storage capacity of morgue facilities in the Kimberley is: Broome, 10; Derby, 12; Kununurra, six; and Wyndham, two. The capacity in the Pilbara is: Marble Bar, one; Newman, four; Nickol Bay, six; Paraburdoo, two; Port Hedland, six; Tom Price, two; and Wickham, two. The capacity in the goldfields is: Kalgoorlie, 12; and Esperance, four.
- (2) The number of bodies currently held in the Kimberley is: Broome, nine; Derby, five; Kununurra, zero; and Wyndham, zero. The number in the Pilbara is: Marble Bar, zero; Newman, zero; Nickol Bay, one; Paraburdoo, zero; Port Hedland, nine; Tom Price, one; and Wickham, zero. The number in the goldfields is: Kalgoorlie, four; and Esperance, zero.

One body in Broome, one in Derby, one in Kalgoorlie and five in Port Hedland are unclaimed. The reasons for them being unclaimed are varied, but some are due to funeral directors not accepting bodies as a result of no-one accepting financial responsibility or no family connections having been found.

- (3) Yes. Port Hedland is at capacity. This information is current at Tuesday, 18 August.