

CORONAVIRUS — DETECT PROGRAM

376. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

Does the DETECT program include all port operation staff and arrivals to WA ports to ensure that we have a rigorous community testing and detection regime in place; and, if not, considering the incidents over the weekend, will the minister now include them in the expanded program?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. We have ambitions to extend DETECT to our ports, both sea and air, although not necessarily as a result of the *Al Kuwait* incident. In particular, there should be an opportunity for us to really focus on the incoming passengers as part of that work. What has also been put to me, particularly by some members of the industry, is that they would like to see a more rigorous testing regime for travellers generally as well as airline staff, for instance. We are looking at those issues. Obviously, the partnership we have with the resources industry and HBF will provide us with an opportunity to look at extending the testing processes. The idea of the DETECT program is to look at symptomatic and asymptomatic testing to make sure that we detect where outbreaks occur. The symptomatic testing regime and the public health policies generally have kept, and continue to keep, Western Australians very safe. In reference to the *Al Kuwait* situation, it is important for everyone to note that no-one left that ship and there was no risk to public health for the WA public because of the measures that we have in place to do just that.