

METHAMPHETAMINE — REHABILITATION BEDS — KIMBERLEY

907. Ms J. FARRER to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the Minister for Mental Health's announcement for 32 regional residential rehabilitation beds to treat methamphetamine use.

- (1) Why was not one of these rehabilitation beds located in the Kimberley?
- (2) Why has the Kimberley's methamphetamine problem been judged to be not as important as other regions?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL replied:

I thank the member for Kimberley for the question. I am pleased to respond to her question.

- (1)–(2) The opportunity for organisations to bid for rehabilitation beds was open to absolutely everyone throughout the state and not one application was received from the Kimberley region, which is always disappointing. However, at the same time, everyone was given a chance to bid and therefore that is where it was. At the same time, throughout Western Australia, the Mental Health Commission has a very good idea of where the key needs are —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member!

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: There is a good understanding of where those needs are. In the Kimberley at the moment, yes, there is an issue with meth, but by far and above the largest problem is still with alcohol. Therefore, we have got other things going into the Kimberley. There are beds in the Kimberley already, albeit funded through the commonwealth. Services are available in the Kimberley, but at the same time our biggest issue in the Kimberley is with alcohol, which we are largely focusing on. There are services and rehabilitation beds in the Kimberley, and we do not duplicate funding. We make sure that we have a balance of services throughout the Kimberley—in fact, everywhere. We do not do the same thing that the commonwealth has done; we manage our resources as best we can to suit. At the same time, we are making sure that we have a step up, step down facility being designed, ready for construction soon in Broome. Extra compulsory alcohol and drug coordinators have gone into the Kimberley in the last couple of months. The Kimberley is being serviced, but it did not receive any additional rehabilitation beds in that last round.