

HEALTH — PRE-TERM BIRTHS — ABORTION

5959. Mr P. Abetz to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the earliest gestation at which a baby was born alive and subsequently released from hospital alive in Western Australia?
- (2) How many medical abortions resulting in the birth of a live child were recorded for the combined years of 2010 to 2015 inclusive?
- (3) How many medical abortions were performed at post 20 weeks gestation with the reason being “Trisomy 21” for the combined years of 2013, 2014, 2015?
- (4) How many approved facilities for medical abortions of any gestation operate in Western Australia?
- (5) How is feticide performed for those cases where there is an expectation that the unborn baby would survive if it were to be delivered?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (1) 22 weeks.
- (2) 12.
- (3) Five abortions at gestation of at least 20 weeks were performed with at least one reason being “Trisomy 21”.
- (4) One facility is approved by the Minister for Health as required by the *Health Act 1911* for abortions at gestations of at least 20 weeks.

For all abortions Section 199 (1) of the *Criminal Code* only has requirements on the medical practitioner performing the abortion and no requirements for approval of facilities. There is no general provision within a hospital’s licence that states abortions can or cannot be performed.

- (5) Feticide is performed under conscious maternal sedation using ultrasound guided injection of potassium chloride or lignocaine into the fetal circulation causing cessation of fetal cardiac activity.