

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES — SUICIDES

**78. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:**

I refer to the finding in the “Western Australia Suicide Prevention Strategy 2009–2013”, which states —

The emergence of suicide clusters in Aboriginal communities is of particular concern and requires a coordinated culturally secure response.

- (1) How many suicides have there been since 1 July 2012 in the communities of Fitzroy, Halls Creek, Derby, Kununurra, Wyndham and the Dampier Peninsula and in other Kimberley communities?
- (2) What community action plans are in place for each of these communities?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) All suspected deaths by suicide are reported to the WA State Coroner, who is responsible for the final determination of the cause of each death. In the case of deaths within the time frame requested, the Office of the State Coroner would not have reached its conclusion on all suspected cases. The WA State Coroner, through the Attorney General, would need to be approached to ascertain any response to the information requested on the number of deaths in those individual locations.

Also, the Department of Health will not release information that could potentially identify an individual either directly or indirectly.

- (2) A stage 1 community action plan was developed and implemented for the Kimberley region by the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council and was completed in August 2012. This had a budget of \$795 769 and included Derby, the Dampier Peninsula, Fitzroy Valley, Kununurra, Broome and Halls Creek. Subsequently, stage 2 community action plans have been developed and approved for Broome, \$428 000; Derby, \$531 700; and the Dampier Peninsula, \$304 050. The Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention is currently considering applications for stage 2 funding for Fitzroy Valley, Halls Creek and Kununurra.