

CORONAVIRUS — COMMUNITY CASE

335. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier advise the house what numbers will cause concern and what will happen if we start to see positive results? Will masks be required? Is the government already considering that if the situation escalates, in order to protect the community?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

We sought the advice of the Chief Health Officer on those matters this afternoon. We had an emergency management team meeting at 1.30 this afternoon. Obviously, it depends on the circumstances. The last time we had a lockdown, whenever that was—six weeks ago—I recall that we had perhaps four community cases and we decided to impose a lockdown. We managed to crush and kill the virus in Western Australia. At this point, we have had one positive—weak. According to medical advice, there is the prospect that this guy was not infectious because he was COVID-positive last year. This complicates matters. On return from overseas last year, he was COVID-positive. The chances are or the prospect is that he is not infectious, but we do not know, so that is why we are cautious. Whether we put further measures in place, like lockdowns, mask wearing or the like, depends on circumstances and medical advice. We will monitor the situation carefully today and tomorrow. Obviously, we are highly sensitive and very cautious about these matters and will do whatever is required.