

MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS — SHIRES OF BUSSELTON AND AUGUSTA-MARGARET RIVER

Hon BARRY HOUSE to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I have a question for the Minister for Health, but I assume that has gone up in flames, so I will ask it tomorrow.

The PRESIDENT: No. I do not know.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I ask —

- (1) How many locally based staff from the Department of Health counselled people with mental health problems in Margaret River —
 - (a) during 2005-06;
 - (b) during 2006-07; and
 - (c) currently?
- (2) How many social workers conduct home visits in the Shires of Busselton and Augusta-Margaret River?
- (3) How often do these social workers visit homes on their own?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The number of locally based staff from the Department of Health who counselled people with mental health problems in Margaret River is —
 - (a) during 2005-06, 4.3 full-time equivalent staff;
 - (b) during 2006-07, 5.3 FTE staff; and
 - (c) currently, 5.3 FTE staff.

Currently there are 14 mental health staff, including a consultant psychiatrist and a medical officer, who provide services including counselling to people with mental health problems in the Vasse-Leeuwin region.
- (2) Currently, there are 3.9 full-time equivalent social workers-1.6 FTE within the community health service and 2.3 FTE within the mental health service-who conduct home visits in the Busselton and Augusta-Margaret River shires.
- (3) Social workers visit homes on their own on an as required basis following an assessment of the client's needs and in compliance with relevant occupational health and safety legislation.