

MARGARET RIVER, OBSTETRIC SERVICES

62. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Why is the South West Area Health Service refusing to negotiate a weekend roster of local doctors in Margaret River to deliver obstetric services?
- (2) Is the minister aware or concerned that of the four doctors in Margaret River currently delivering babies, two have already announced that they will stop obstetrics if this decision is pursued?
- (3) Is the minister also aware or concerned that this will force women to give birth in Bunbury or some other distant locality?
- (4) Why is this decision being pursued in a vibrant, growing regional town, especially in light of the fact that the long awaited \$3 million hospital upgrade, which is under way, will provide a brand-new obstetrics unit?
- (5) How will this decision enhance regional development in Western Australia?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The minister requests that this question be placed on notice.