

HEALTH — SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND DENTAL HYGIENE VAN — KIMBERLEY

5403. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can the minister please confirm the number of speech pathologists currently employed based in the Kimberley, and where they are each located?
- (2) I refer to the dental hygiene van that services some parts of the Kimberley, and ask:
 - (a) can the minister list the communities that the dental hygiene van has visited in the years 2014, 2015, and 2016;
 - (b) how many times does the van visit each location per year;
 - (c) does the dental hygiene van have four wheel drive capabilities, therefore being able to travel on gravel road; and
 - (d) if no to , how are dental hygiene services delivered to communities such as Beagle Bay and Balgo?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (1) As at 28 April 2016, a total of 4.8 FTE speech pathologists are currently employed based in the Kimberley including 1 FTE in Broome, 2 FTE in Derby and 1.8 FTE in Kununurra.
- (2) (a)–(c) Dental Health Services (DHS) does not possess a dental hygiene van that services different locations in the Kimberley. DHS possesses a Dental Therapy Van which is permanently sited at the Wyndham Primary School.
- (d) The Beagle Bay Community receives dental services from Broome-based staff totalling four (4) visits per year of one (1) week duration utilising field-portable dental equipment set up in the health clinic or school room.

The Balgo Community receives dental services from Kununurra-based staff totalling two (2) visits per year of one (1) week duration utilising field-portable dental equipment set up in the health clinic.