

STEP-UP, STEP-DOWN MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY — GREAT SOUTHERN

**874. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Mental Health:**

I refer to the “Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015–2025”, which highlights that the great southern region requires at least 16 rehabilitation beds by 2025. Has this government commenced the identification of a site and/or planning for a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Albany or the great southern; and, if not, why not?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

I can confirm for the member that we have had discussions with organisations about such a service. From that perspective, I cannot tell the member where those conversations are up to, but I can certainly confirm that that sort of service is on our radar. They are important services, because we know that we need to make sure that we can provide mental health services for people in the regions in which they live. That is the reason we opened the six-bed step-up, step-down facility in Albany in 2018. I have since had the pleasure of opening the 10-bed Bunbury step-up, step-down facility with the member for Bunbury, and soon we will be opening a 10-bed facility in Kalgoorlie and a six-bed step-up, step-down facility in Geraldton. Both are coming on at great speed. But we do not stop there. After that, we will be opening up a step-up, step-down facility in Karratha and one in Broome. These are part of an extensive program of making sure we have good subacute mental health services in the communities in which people live, right throughout the state. In addition to that, on behalf of the member for Geraldton, I would like to thank the McGowan government for its commitment to the redevelopment of the Geraldton Health Campus and the creation of mental health services in Geraldton. These are not only acute services, but also, as I said, subacute services in those step-up, step-down facilities. I commend the member for the question. It is important that we have mental health services in all our regions, including the great southern, and I am very proud to say that the McGowan government is right on top of that particular goal.