

EGGS — FOODBORNE ILLNESS

391. Hon RICK MAZZA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to an article in *The West Australian*, dated 18 July 2017, entitled “Infected food fuels bug surge” that reported Western Australia has experienced a 31 per cent rise in bacterial or viral infections of the stomach this year alone. The Department of Health has stated its concerns about foodborne illnesses that include salmonella, with 1 566 cases being associated with the consumption of eggs. Can the minister please advise —

- (1) Whether the Department of Health has carried out any studies on the level of risk associated with the consumption of —
 - (a) organically produced eggs;
 - (b) cage-produced eggs; or
 - (c) free-range eggs?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) What measures has the Department of Health employed to trace the source of eggs consumed by individuals who have contracted an infection from contaminated eggs?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I am advised by the Department of Health of the following.

- (1) (a)–(c) No.
- (2) The Department of Health is collaborating with national research networks, including scientists from Murdoch University, to gain an understanding of potential risks throughout the various egg production systems.
- (3) The Department of Health has used epidemiological and environmental health measures to trace the source of eggs.