

MATERNITY SERVICES — CARNARVON

**40. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the state government's decision to close maternity services in Carnarvon, forcing expectant families to travel up to 1 000 kilometres to give birth in Geraldton or Perth.

- (1) How many families have been impacted since the cancellation of maternity services in February 2022?
- (2) Has a date been set to resume maternity services in Carnarvon?
- (3) Noting media reports last week that several families have been left with out-of-pocket expenses as a result of the closure, can the minister confirm that every family that has been required to travel to access maternity services has been fully reimbursed for their transport, accommodation and any other associated costs as a result of the government's decision to close maternity services in Carnarvon?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

**Hon PIERRE YANG replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the minister.

- (1) Since February 2022, 186 families have been supported to birth at alternative health services.
- (2) No. This is a temporary closure of maternity services in Carnarvon, with the WA Country Health Service continuing to undertake work to ensure that consistent and sustainable workforce coverage is maintained in Carnarvon.
- (3) Since February 2022, Carnarvon women have been fully funded to relocate to access birthing services that are temporarily unavailable at Carnarvon Health Campus. This includes the full cost of accommodation, travel and groceries, on the provision of receipts. Reimbursement of all maternity-related expenses is facilitated through a local process to ensure that Carnarvon women are paid for their expenses while they are away from their community.
- (4) Not applicable.