

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS, COST OF PATIENT TRANSFERS

400. Mr J.L. Bradshaw to the Minister for Health

- (1) In the last 12 months, how often has the Peel Health Campus had no beds available and patients sent to other hospitals?
- (2) To which hospitals are these patient admitted?
- (3) Who pays for the cost of these patients to be transported from Mandurah if the patient is transferred by ambulance?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that in some cases a doctor finds there is no bed available and sends the patient to another hospital and, as the patient had to be transported by ambulance, the patient receives a substantial bill from St John's Ambulance?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

1. None. There may however have been some circumstances where patients were seen in the emergency department at Peel Health Campus and transferred to metropolitan teaching hospitals because of the complexity of their condition.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable. However, the Member may be interested to note that in the situation that the doctor has made a decision to transfer a public patient to another hospital for clinical reasons the hospital bears the cost of the transfer. If the patient is a private patient then the patient is responsible for the cost of transfer.
4. I am aware that no patients have been transported to alternate hospitals as a result of bed availability at Peel Health Campus. The Member may be interested to note that ambulance fees within the greater metropolitan area are not based on distance travelled.