

HEALTH, AGED-RELATED SERVICES

812. Mr MARLBOROUGH to the Minister for Health:

Can the minister outline what the State Government is doing to address the growing demand for aged-related services in Western Australia?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I had the pleasure of attending the first meeting of the WA Aged Care Advisory Council this morning. The council is chaired by Dr Penny Flett, the chief executive officer of the Brightwater Care Group. Dr Flett is well known for her innovative approach to the delivery of health-related programs and services to WA's older population.

Membership of the 18-member council has been drawn from aged-care services, consumer groups, the health system and government. The council will provide advice to the Government on a range of issues, including the current status of and projected future demand for health and related aged-care services; and linkages between state and commonwealth aged-care programs. I was very pleased to see the commonwealth representatives at the table with us this morning discussing issues in a very cooperative way. The council will also provide advice on the development of an action plan for dementia care and on regional aged care issues. I am sure the member for Roe will note that last point, as it is an item on the Notice Paper.

The Government is moving forward. A number of those issues were included in our election promises. Anticipated outcomes of the council include the development of a state aged care plan, which the member for Roe alluded to earlier this year, including an action plan for dementia care in Western Australia. It is also anticipated that the council will provide timely advice to government on health and related aged care issues, and will consider the needs of specific population subgroups, including indigenous people and people with disabilities. I take this opportunity to thank members of the Western Australian aged care advisory council. I wish them well in their deliberations. Finally, I thank the member for Peel for the outstanding work he is currently doing to address the aged care needs of his constituents.