

IVF PROGRAMS, FEES

1544. Mr P.G. Pental to the Minister for Health

I refer to access to IVF technology in Western Australia and ask -

- (a) what is the nature and extent of fees levied to those seeking access to IVF programs; and
- (b) are fees levied at the same rate for heterosexual and homosexual couples?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) The nature and extent of fees levied on those accessing IVF programs vary according to the diagnosis and treatment required. Fertility clinics charge private patients for the services that they provide based on the Medicare Benefits Schedule.
- (b) IVF fees are levied on the basis of treatment required. In WA IVF treatment is accessible only to those who are medically infertile or who are likely to pass on a genetic abnormality or disease.