

METRICUP DRUG REHABILITATION FACILITY

703. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the recent decision by the City of Busselton to refuse planning permission for a drug rehabilitation facility at Metricup.

- (1) Has the minister or her office or department had contact with anyone at the council about either the proposal or the decision to block the establishment of this facility; and, if so, what was the nature of this contact and what view was expressed on behalf of the government?
- (2) If no to (1), is such contact planned and when?
- (3) Has the government made any specific attempt to engage and educate local government about its planned meth strategy, in particular the treatment and support component of that strategy; and, if so, what form has this engagement taken?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Will the government act now to ensure that the Busselton region is not denied this opportunity to have a much-needed rehabilitation centre to help the families and individuals who strongly support such a facility and desperately need its services?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No. The Mental Health Commission was not involved in the development of the Busselton submission and had no contact with the council. Mr Khim Harris provided advice to the minister outlining his proposed private facility on 22 June 2016 and did not request any support or funding for his proposal. The minister acknowledged his letter and provided advice around the “Better Choices. Better Lives. Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015–2025”, which is outlined in the answer to part (2), and the tenders, which are outlined in the answer to part (4).
- (2) In accordance with the plan, the Mental Health Commission has commenced planning for a 36-bed residential rehabilitation service in the south west by 2016. Planning will involve engagement with local partners in due course.
- (3) No.
- (4) As part of the \$14.9 million WA methamphetamine strategy, the government is expanding prevention and treatment services and is providing an extra eight local medical withdrawal beds and 52 residential rehabilitation beds across the state by the end of 2017. The Mental Health Commission is currently reviewing tenders, with contracts expected to be in place by October 2016.
- (5) As outlined in the answer to part (2), the Mental Health Commission has commenced planning for a residential rehabilitation facility in the south west. The Mental Health Commission funds the south west community alcohol and drug service, which provides counselling and support services across the south west region.