

From: Rule, Peta
Sent: Thursday, 17 June 2010 8:19 AM
To: WightPickin, Ian; Hayes, Melinda; Allier, Christian
Subject: Response to possible question today.

Hi guys. As discussed, I've been told Alannah MacTiernan is planning to ask during question time about child health nurses, particularly in Armadale.

We know this because she told a journalist she was going to ask the question, and the journalist pre-empted Alannah and asked us about it first.

Ms MacTiernan seems to think the number of child health nurses in Armadale has been cut by 20 per cent. We can't see any indication of this as there are six child health clinics and staffing has been pretty stable.

Answers are below!

Q: Has there been a cut in the number of child health care nurses in WA? If yes, is there a reason for the cuts? If not, has there been an increase?

A: There have been no cuts to child health nurse numbers in the metro area. Child Health nurses may occasionally be redistributed according to birth-rates and demand for services in certain suburbs/areas.

Q: If yes, is the Minister is aware the cuts will mean the abandonment of vital early intervention such as high risk ante-natal visits, 18-month and three-year check-ups and visits to daycare?

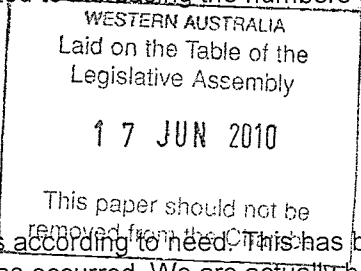
A: There have been no cuts to child health nursing numbers.

Q: As part the budget, The State Government announced it would appoint more than 45 child health specialists in the next year to support young children in need of speech pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy- will this address the increasing number of children who have been assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the Australian Early Developmental Index?

A: Yes - the recent announcement of additional child development staff will significantly address the needs of many WA children who have been diagnosed as developmentally delayed and who are as a consequence, developmentally vulnerable. Waiting times for services in the metropolitan area will be halved.

Q: Is there any commitment to increase the number of child health nurses in the State?

A: The WA Government is committed to increasing the numbers of child health nurses via future negotiations with the Commonwealth Government.



Further information for you..

- CACH often moves nurses according to need. This has been standard operational practice for many years - so nothing new/different has occurred. We are actually becoming more accurate in regard to this process as the epidemiology and data improve - this includes ABS stats/Health Dept stats/birth rates.
- Regarding Armadale - I have been advised it was 6.3 - moved to 5.5. So the 0.8FTE has been moved to Rockingham/Kwinana due to historical lower allocation there.
- Armadale has 6 Child Health Clinics - so uncertain as to which clinic in particular.

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