

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C1161

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday, 25 September 2014

Hon Robin Chapple to Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

I refer to the death of Julieka Ivanna Due in custody at South Hedland on 4th August 2014, and ask:

1. Will the Minister table statements made to the media by either the WA Health Department, WACHS or the South Hedland Health Campus?
2. If no to (1) why not?
3. If yes to (1) in what capacity were the statements made and on what dates?

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Health.

(1) Yes. I table one statement.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) On 5 August 2014 Alex Massey, West Australian, requested information and Jacob Kagi, ABC Perth, requested confirmation regarding 'whether Mrs Dhu had been seen at Hedland Health Campus, then released and was returned to the Campus after feeling sick where she died'. Both were directed to make all requests for information to WA Police Media.

The statement attributed to Mr Ron Wynn Regional Director WA Country Health Service (WACHS) – Pilbara was made in response to the following media enquiries:

6 August 2014: Ebonie Spriggs, ABC Karratha, requested whether WA Country Health Service wished to comment following a media release by WA Police Media.

22 August 2014: Paige Taylor, The Australian, requested a statement from WACHS.

6 September 2014: Lauren Gillin, Fairfax Media, requested a statement from WACHS.

24 September 2014 Ryan Emery, SBS Television, requested a statement from WACHS.

30 September 2014: Anna Vidot, ABC Radio Current Affairs, requested a statement from WACHS.

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The following response can be attributed to Mr Ron Wynn Regional Director WA Country Health Service—Pilbara.

The tragic death of a young woman at South Hedland is currently the subject of a Police investigation and likely coronial inquiry and it is improper for us to comment.

However, we can say that a preliminary review by Hedland Health Campus staff has shown that on each occasion she received appropriate treatment.

ENDS.