

HOSPITALS — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS — PERFORMANCE TARGETS

680. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Department of Health's July 2018 Western Australian emergency access target performance report.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that the number of patients seen within the targeted level—that is, within four hours—at the Fiona Stanley Hospital's emergency department has declined from 73.2 per cent in July 2017 to 61.9 per cent, or a drop of 11.3 per cent, over the last year?
- (2) Will he also confirm that the reduction in performance at this hospital, the state's largest emergency hospital, was not due to attendance or demand as that grew during that period by only one per cent?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) As I did last week, I can confirm that our emergency departments are under pressure at the moment. They are having to deal with the winter flu season and as a result of that, all emergency departments, not just those in Western Australia, are struggling to deal with it. That is the nature of August–September. It happens every year and there is nothing unusual about that. What I can confirm is that the Department of Health is working overtime to ensure we get to as many patients as possible. The statewide emergency access target for August 2018 was 73.4 per cent. We are looking at pretty much the same level in August 2017, when it was about 74 per cent. As we can see, these are the same difficulties we have year in, year out due to the winter flu season and the pressure that puts us under.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Dr A.D. Buti: Be quiet, boofhead.

Mr R.H. COOK: I can also confirm —

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I believe I heard the member for Armadale refer to the member for Carine as a boofhead. I ask him to withdraw.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I withdraw.

Questions Without Notice Resumed

Mr R.H. COOK: I can confirm that some hospitals are doing very well. The Peel Health Campus has had some outstanding results over the last few months when it has increased its WAEAT performance by over five per cent. Times are peaking over 70 per cent on a regular basis. In particular—I note the interjection from the member for Armadale—between August 2017 and August 2018, the Armadale–Kelmescott Memorial Hospital figure has gone from a WAEAT performance figure of 70 per cent to 75.7 per cent. As we can see, some hospitals are working overtime to meet the needs of patients who come to our hospitals. As I have stressed, it is because of the winter flu season that we are struggling at this point in time. Our doctors and nurses working on the frontline, day in and day out, are doing their level best. They are providing an exceptional service to the people of Western Australia. I am proud of them and I am proud of the work they do. As I said last week, there are just a few more weeks to go of the winter flu season and then we will be over the hump for this year.