

MENTAL HEALTH — KARRATHA AND BUNBURY

**660. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the broken election promise to establish mental health facilities in Karratha and Bunbury commencing in 2013–14 that the Minister for Regional Development discussed on radio in Karratha on 3 October 2012, and for which no money has been allocated in the budget.

- (1) Is the reason that no money has been allocated in the budget for these facilities that the minister will not allow royalties for regions money to be used to fund it?
- (2) Why has the Liberal–National government broken the promise it made in this election policy?
- (3) When will the government deliver these promised vital services to the regions?
- (4) When did mental health in the regions no longer become a priority for the government?

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:**

- (1)–(4) I thank the member for Collie–Preston for the question. This issue of mental health facilities as an election commitment came up in a radio interview in Karratha. I was not aware of the commitment at the time. On further examination, it was a commitment made by Hon Helen Morton as part of the Liberal Party’s election strategy. I did say that the most likely place to build those mental health facilities was in the new Karratha health campus, planning for which and assembling the land is well and truly underway. I have every confidence —

**Mr M. McGowan:** It was in Bunbury as well!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** The Leader of the Opposition should let me answer the question! I have every confidence that Hon Helen Morton and I, and the Minister for Health and the Premier will all work towards that.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** It will not come before the new hospital!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** The notion that the government can deliver all these election commitments within six months of coming to government is a little difficult to understand.

**Mr M. McGowan:** The promise was for 2013–14!

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** I am happy to be interjected on about the promise, but it was not a promise I made. I am talking about a promise that Hon Helen Morton made. I have said that I agree we should progress this policy. Mental health is an important issue in the Pilbara. It comes off the back of the systematic neglect by the previous government of the people of the Pilbara. The former government delivered rents that were out of control. It delivered no community infrastructure and no hope for that community, except for working in a fly in, fly out workforce and it allowed the FIFO workforce to grow and prosper. That is why mental health is an issue and why this government has appointed a Minister for Mental Health and a new Mental Health Commissioner, and made an enormous effort. The Premier has just reminded me that we have good mental health facilities in Hedland, 200 kilometres up the road, so that is an option.

Several members interjected.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** Members opposite should remember they had no plans for a hospital in Karratha; they said that everyone should go to Hedland for their health! I am sure this election commitment around mental health will be delivered. As for the Bunbury program, I am unaware of the details of that because it has not been put to me before. However, this government has a strong track record in mental health. It has identified mental health as a key issue and this election commitment will be delivered in this term of government.