

DENTAL SERVICES — HEDLAND

Petition

HON PETER FOSTER (Mining and Pastoral) [1.02 pm]: I present a petition containing 70 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia urgently call on the State Government to provide accessible dental services to school aged children and the wider community.

The recent staff shortage at the school dental clinics in Hedland has left a gap in reliable annual check-ups and emergency care with children resorting to private care if affordable. Those that can't afford private care will be missed and this could have detrimental effects on the future care of children's teeth.

The Government dental clinic is provided from a temporary caravan in the Hedland Health Campus car park has been in this location since moving from the Community Health building some 5–10 years ago is not accessible for patients with a disability/mobility issue and forced to wait under a tree in car park during Summer is unreasonable.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to investigate the shortage of Dental services in Hedland and subsequently make recommendations to the State Government to provide these regular school dental services and reduce the staff shortages experienced and plan and open a permanent space for the Government dental services that is accessible to everyone.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 2484.]