

PAEDIATRIC CLINICS

**483. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to the continuing paediatric crisis in WA.

- (1) Is the minister aware that doctors at paediatric clinics whose country of origin is not Australia are returning to their home country for extended periods on short notice, leaving parents with no medical care or access to medication for their children?
- (2) Does the minister have any safeguards in place at a state level to prevent parents and patients from being left with no support, care or medication for their children?
- (3) What advice does the minister give to the parents of children in this situation?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) WA Health employs a large workforce and provides health services across Western Australia. When clinicians need to take periods of leave, public health service providers put service continuity measures in place to manage the clinical needs of patients. Patients already accessing a public health service for their child should contact this service provider to discuss their needs. Private health service providers, such as private paediatric clinics, are responsible for their own service and risk management. Parents not currently accessing a public health service should discuss their needs with their general practitioner, who can provide a referral to an appropriate public or private health service.