

HEALTH — SPEECH THERAPISTS — SOUTH WEST REGION

1386. Hon ADELE FARINA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Minister for Health's answer to question on notice 3428.

- (1) Why are only three of the 20 child speech therapists in the south west employed on contracts of longer than six months?
- (2) Why does the WA Country Health Service favour six-month contracts over longer term contracts?
- (3) Of the 1.2 full-time equivalent child speech therapist positions in the south west vacant as at 1 September 2015 —
 - (a) for how long had the positions been vacant as at 1 September 2015; and
 - (b) is the 1.2 FTE or any component thereof still currently vacant?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. I respond on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health.

- (1) As at 1 September 2015, three child speech therapists were on fixed-term contracts of longer than six months. Sixteen child speech therapists were permanent and one child speech therapist was on fixed-term contracts of six months or less.
- (2) WA Country Health Service does not favour six-month contracts over longer term contracts.
- (3)
 - (a) One full-time equivalent has been vacant since January 2015 and 0.2 FTE has been vacant since June 2015.
 - (b) Yes.