

HEALTH — SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

917. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Minister's answer to QON 752, answered on Tuesday, 20 June, 2023, and I ask:

- (a) how does the Minister account for the 33 per cent reduction in the number of children being seen by the School Dental Service between 2018 and 2022; and
- (b) how does the Minister account for the 38 per cent drop in occasions of service being delivered by the School Dental Service between 2018 and 2022?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

- (a)–(b) The reduction in the number of children seen and occasions of service delivered was due to the implementation of WA Health System Alert and Response (SAR) Framework protocols from February to June 2022 in response to COVID-19 following health advice. The SAR put in place restrictions on, and protocols for, the delivery of public dentistry, including the School Dental Service.