

ROYAL PERTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL - TEMPORARY LOAN WHEELCHAIRS

388. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Health:

I again refer to the leaked internal memorandum from the Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital at Shenton Park that reveals that wheelchair stocks have been culled after the closure of the previous storage area known as the "Animal House" due to safety concerns. The opposition understands that up to 400 wheelchairs have been thrown away.

- (1) Can the minister please explain why wheelchairs are being thrown away in skip bins when the waiting time for loan wheelchairs has doubled?
- (2) At the very least, will the minister concede that these wheelchairs could have been donated to local non-government agencies or overseas charity organisations in need of wheelchairs to assist people with disabilities?
- (3) Opposition members are holding up just some of the photographs of skip bins full of very good wheelchairs; can the minister explain why this has occurred?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

My response to the Leader of the Opposition is the same as that given to the member for Roe.