

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER - DIAGNOSIS

980. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

This question is about attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and the drugging of children in Western Australia. Does the government support the view that prior to the use of psychostimulant medication, a child must receive a thorough diagnosis incorporating an analysis of the child's medical, social and familial circumstances to minimise the potential for misdiagnosis and the potential for unnecessary treatment with medication?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

Yes. This is in line with recommendation 3 of the Education and Health Standing Committee report "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Western Australia: Report No. 8". Recommendation 3 specifically calls for a thorough assessment to occur prior to the use of medication and for this assessment to include an analysis of the medical, social and familial circumstances of the child.