

COLLIE HOSPITAL — DIALYSIS MACHINE

5349. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many kidney dialysis machines are there at the Collie Hospital?
- (2) What is the Minister's policy on accepting a donated kidney dialysis machine for the Collie Hospital?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Dialysis is a complex service that requires specialist medical and nursing staff trained in renal dialysis care. The practicality of installing a unit in Collie is significantly impacted by the ability to recruit and train specialist staff to manage and maintain the unit for the small number of dialysis patients from Collie. There are currently two people travelling to Bunbury for dialysis from Collie.

The nearest dialysis unit is within 50 km (40 minutes travel) of Collie at the South West Health Campus in Bunbury. Access to this specialist unit is within acceptable standards of time and distance. The unit is managed by St John of God Health Care on behalf of the Department of Health. It has recently been announced that this unit will be expanding to include an additional five chairs taking the total number of dialysis chairs at Bunbury to 12 along with 6 chairs at Busselton. This will meet the demand for dialysis in the South West into the future.