

HEALTH — SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES

1056. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Department of Health's South West Services and the provision of Speech Therapy, and ask:

- (a) how many speech therapists are employed by South West Health Services;
- (b) what areas in the South West do these therapists attend; and
- (c) what is the average waiting time for an appointment?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

- (a) 17.38 FTE Speech Pathologists are currently employed by WA Country Health Service (WACHS) — South West.
- (b) These speech pathologists are mainly within the Community Health teams based out of Bunbury, Busselton, Manjimup and Collie, and provide services across each relevant district. There are also specific therapists who are part of the South West Regional Therapy team providing therapy to disability clients. Therapists based at Bunbury Hospital also provide acute and sub-acute speech therapy services.
- (c) All referrals for speech pathology are triaged and high priority referrals are seen within 1–2 days. The average wait time for an appointment is 4–6 weeks.