

CORONAVIRUS — TESTING — YALGOO

96. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. For the past five years the community has been raising the need for a minimum of two full-time nurses. With another \$5 billion surplus, when will the minister take the health needs of Yalgoo community seriously and fund two full-time nurses?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I reiterate that the number of presentations per day is 0.8. The funding is appropriate for the level of staffing there.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for North West Central.

Ms A. SANDERSON: We cannot make it compulsory for people to work in those areas.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for North West Central.

Ms A. SANDERSON: As much as we incentivise and provide very generous loadings to live and work in regional towns, we are criticised for those loadings by the National Party. We provide \$4 000 per day for people working in some of those towns, we do everything we can to ensure that those towns have access to it, but ultimately, people make a choice. We work with metropolitan hospitals to make sure we can locate people so we can fill those gaps. The funding is there and we are committed to providing that service, but it is a challenging environment in which to staff regional and remote communities.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, you have asked your question.

Ms A. SANDERSON: I put this question to the member: did you staff two nurses when you were in government for eight and a half years?