

WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE — TONSILLECTOMIES

997. Hon RICK MAZZA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the WA Country Health Service.

- (1) Has there been a policy change on the approval of longstanding accredited practitioners in regional Western Australia to perform certain procedures such as tonsillectomies?
- (2) If yes to (1), how many procedures would have been performed in regional centres that have now been referred to metropolitan Perth?
- (3) Are tonsillectomies currently performed in any regional hospitals?
- (4) Is a review being carried out in relation to procedures that can be performed in regional hospitals?
- (5) How many claims for the patient assisted travel scheme have been made for tonsillectomies?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes, tonsillectomies are currently performed at the following hospitals: Geraldton Hospital, Albany Hospital, Bunbury Hospital, Busselton Hospital, Collie Hospital, Broome Hospital, Derby Hospital, Kununurra Hospital, Port Hedland Hospital, Nickol Bay Hospital and Narrogin Hospital.
- (4) No.
- (5) The number of patient assisted travel scheme claims for tonsillectomies is unable to be determined as the PATS system records claims against the type of specialist the patient is visiting. The PATS system does not record the surgical procedure or treatment received.