

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Question without notice
1394**

of which some notice is given

Thursday, 24 November 2011

Robin Chapple MLC to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health.

I refer to the Review of the Environmental Protection (Goldfields Residential Areas) (Sulfur Dioxide) Policy at

http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/AnalysisofSubmissions_EPAWebsite_2.pdf and ask:

1. In Issue 14. Health, is it correct that: alarming medical results of children with high levels of heavy metals (cadmium, mercury, lead, aluminium and Barium); and six times the acceptable reference range have been recorded in the area?
2. In no to 1, what is the current situation?
3. Is the Health department conducting epidemiological studies alongside the suggested monitoring from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) arising from this report?
4. What is the Health department's involvement with the monitoring undertaken by DEC, Industry and local government in the lead up to the development of the Air Quality Monitoring Program for the Goldfields Residential Areas?

I thank the Member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Health.

1. No.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) has not received any results regarding medical tests of children in the Goldfields Residential Area. The DOH has not received the report from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). Comments regarding six times the acceptable reference range were made by the EPA, not the DOH, and therefore clarification should be sought from the EPA. (R)
3. No. The DOH was not consulted by the EPA when this recommendation was made. The DOH does not have any medical evidence to support an epidemiological investigation.
4. DOH involvement is limited to being notified of any exceedances of the dust (PM10) guideline