

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question on notice**

tabled paper.

**Wednesday, 14 May 2014**

1243. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health.

I refer to the Medicare Billing for Rural Areas in Need program, under the Small Rural Hospitals for Primary Health Care, Council of Australian Governments (COAG), Section 19(2) exemption initiative in Western Australia, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth of Australia and Western Australia, and I ask:

- (a) which communities and towns are covered by this program;
- (b) what is the dollar value of the funds received from the Commonwealth Government for each of the last three years, by each of the communities and towns that are covered by this program;
- (c) what has been the income and itemised expenditure of these funds for each of the last three years, by each of the communities and towns that are covered by the program;
- (d) have all of the funds that have been expended by the implementation committees, in consultation with the communities, been for the purposes of improving access to primary health care services and supporting workforce retention in those rural and remote communities that have been experiencing workforce shortages:
  - (i) if no to (d), what were the funds expended on; and
  - (ii) if no to (d), was, or is there, a State-Federal agreement that the funds can be expended for other purposes:
    - (A) if yes to (d)(ii), what are those other purposes;
- (e) what is the makeup of the membership and community/departmental representation on each of the implementation committees that oversee the distribution of funds in each of the towns and communities;
- (f) what role does the Western Australian Community Health Service (WACHS) play in determining the decisions and outcomes of the implementation committees;
- (g) how many services, and the income generated from those services, have been billed to the Medicare Benefits Scheme for each of the last three years by each of the communities and towns that are covered by this program; and
- (h) what percentage of patients attending hospitals under this program are Indigenous and Non-Indigenous in each of the towns and communities?

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**Answer**

(a) For WA Country Health Service (WACHS) the following communities and towns are covered by the 19(2) program:

**Kimberley**  
Derby  
Fitzroy Crossing  
Halls Creek

Kununurra  
Warmun  
Wyndham  
**Pilbara**  
Onslow  
**Midwest**  
Carnarvon  
Exmouth  
Meekatharra  
Shark Bay

(b-c) [See tabled paper no]

(d) Yes, all funds have been used for Primary Health Care purposes as required.

(e) **Carnarvon:** Carnarvon Medical Centre, Silver Chain Nursing Association, Carnarvon Medical Services Aboriginal Corporation, Carnarvon Physiotherapy, Goldfields Midwest Medicare Local, WACHS.

**Exmouth:** Goldfields Midwest Medicare Local and WACHS.

**Shark Bay:** Silver Chain Nursing Association and WACHS.

**Meekatharra:** RFDS, Meekatharra Community members, Geraldton Aboriginal Medical Service and WACHS.

**Onslow:** The committee has not yet been activated. The proposed committee will be made up in the first instance of one (1) community member, two (2) service provider members, and one (1) health service member (Chair), with one (1) – two (2) more community members being sought.

**Derby:** RFDS, Community member, District Health Advisory Committee (DHAC) member, Boab Health Service, Derby Aboriginal Health Service and WACHS.

**Fitzroy Crossing:** RFDS, Community member, DHAC member, Boab Health Service, Derby Aboriginal Health Service and WACHS.

**Halls Creek:** Yuri Yungi Aboriginal Health Service Halls Creek, Boab Health, Kununurra Dental Clinic, Three (3) Community Members and WACHS.

**Kununurra:** Ord Valley Aboriginal Medical Service (OVAHS), Boab Health, Kununurra Medical Practice, Kununurra Dental Clinic, Community member and WACHS.

**Warmun:** Gija Total Health, Community members and WACHS.

**Wyndham:** Boab Health, Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation, five (5) Community Members and WACHS.

(f) WA Country Health Service (WACHS) does/will facilitate meetings, funds agreed services either by employing staff or funding external organisations to provide the service. WACHS has the same voting rights as all other committee members. WACHS ensures funding is directed to areas of unmet/high need to enhance long term health gain.

(g-h) [See tabled paper no]

LC1243

(b)

<b>Funding received from the Commonwealth</b>			
	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
Carnarvon	\$427,600	\$584,214	\$624,139
Exmouth	\$438,651	\$551,705	\$548,429
Shark Bay	\$28,233	\$37,529	\$46,389
Meekatharra <sup>1</sup>	Unavailable	\$358,284	\$358,068
Onslow	Nil	\$62,317	\$120,332
Derby	\$734,499	\$879,857	\$908,511
Fitzroy Crossing	\$885,842	\$762,783	\$681,507
Halls Creek	Nil	\$382,513	\$416,021
Kununurra	Nil	\$439,389	\$644,221
Warmun	Nil	Nil	\$53,628
Wyndham	Nil	\$278,074	\$325,827

<sup>1</sup> Meekatharra Program is managed by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), which commenced May 2011.

<sup>2</sup> June 2014 data has been estimated to enable reporting of 2013-14.

(c)

<b>Carnarvon</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	\$427,600	\$584,214	\$624,139
Primary Care - Nursing	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$30,389
Primary Care - Allied Health	\$12,756	\$41,467	\$33,817
Additional GP and Medical Services			\$62,510
Purchase of Outsourced Services			
Training and Revenue Enhancement	\$83,312	\$105,435	\$71,420
Staffing On Costs - Superannuation, Workers Comp, District Allowance, Housing	\$9,284	\$7,147	\$9,031
Equipment, Repairs, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses	\$22,630	\$39,133	\$47,683
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$137,482</b>	<b>\$202,682</b>	<b>\$254,850</b>

<b>Exmouth</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	\$438,651	\$551,705	\$548,429
Primary Care - Nursing	\$24,808	\$140,828	\$123,537
Primary Care - Allied Health	\$196,049	\$134,310	\$171,437
Additional GP and Medical Services	\$24,100	\$14,654	\$221,131
Training and Revenue Enhancement	\$94,136	\$44,983	\$98,799
Staffing On Costs - Superannuation, Workers Comp, District Allowance, Housing	\$21,859	\$55,733	\$62,362

Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses	\$10,176	\$50,321	\$55,726
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$371,128</b>	<b>\$440,829</b>	<b>\$732,992</b>

<b>Shark Bay</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	\$28,233	\$37,529	\$46,389
Primary Care - Nursing	\$4,400	\$8,500	\$3,400
Additional GP and Medical Services			
Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses	\$4,900	\$6,224	\$29,588
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$9,300</b>	<b>\$14,724</b>	<b>\$32,988</b>

<b>Meekatharra</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	NIL	\$358,284	\$358,068
Purchase of Outsourced Services	NIL	\$358,284	\$358,068
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>\$358,284</b>	<b>\$358,068</b>

<b>Onslow</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	NIL	\$62,317	\$120,333
Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses	NIL	\$1,740	\$1,906
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>\$1,740</b>	<b>\$1,906</b>

<b>Derby</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	\$734,499	\$879,857	\$908,510
Primary Care - Nursing	\$10,939	\$65,766	\$143,179
Primary Care - Allied Health		\$40,900	\$117,381
Additional GP and Medical Services	\$169,000	\$234,229	\$386,073
Purchase of Outsourced Services		\$136	\$6,530
Training and Revenue Enhancement	\$59,113	\$159,016	\$189,863
Staffing On Costs - Superannuation, Workers Comp, District Allowance, Housing	\$20,272	\$60,900	\$136,443
Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses	\$11,400	\$133,753	\$90,525
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$270,724</b>	<b>\$694,700</b>	<b>\$1,069,994</b>

<b>Fitzroy Crossing</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	\$885,842	\$762,783	\$681,507
Primary Care - Nursing	\$223,400	\$276,509	\$275,396
Primary Care - Allied Health	\$70,412	\$159,367	\$76,712
Additional GP and Medical Services	\$583,643	\$168,757	
Purchase of Outsourced Services	\$58,400	\$11,800	

Training and Revenue Enhancement	\$115,676	\$83,719	\$89,549
Staffing On Costs - Superannuation, Workers Comp, District Allowance, Housing	\$62,700	\$232,543	\$252,834
Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses	\$61,969	\$46,405	\$68,787
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,176,200</b>	<b>\$979,100</b>	<b>\$763,278</b>

<b>Halls Creek</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	NIL	\$382,513	\$416,021
Primary Care - Nursing			\$434
Purchase of Outsourced Services		\$32,586	\$27,379
Training and Revenue Enhancement	\$1,206	\$44,506	\$83,861
Staffing On Costs - Superannuation, Workers Comp, District Allowance, Housing		\$10,999	\$13,479
Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses			\$118,377
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,206</b>	<b>\$88,091</b>	<b>\$243,530</b>

<b>Kununurra</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	NIL	\$439,389	\$644,221
Primary Care - Nursing			\$102,024
Purchase of Outsourced Services		\$67,264	
Training and Revenue Enhancement		\$101,911	\$138,170
Staffing On Costs - Superannuation, Workers Comp, District Allowance, Housing		\$64,040	\$56,080
Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses			\$268,078
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>\$233,215</b>	<b>\$564,352</b>

<b>Warmun</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	NIL	NIL	\$53,628
Purchase of Outsourced Services			\$36,223
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>\$36,223</b>

<b>Wyndham</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Revenue	NIL	\$278,074	\$325,827
Primary Care - Nursing		\$66,142	\$97,571
Purchase of Outsourced Services		\$336	
Training and Revenue Enhancement	\$2,507	\$34,047	

Staffing On Costs - Superannuation, Workers Comp, District Allowance, Housing		\$8,748	\$6,999
Equipment, Software, IT Support, Telecommunications, Office Expenses		\$25,756	\$85,563
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$2,507</b>	<b>\$135,029</b>	<b>\$190,133</b>

(g)

<b>Occasions of service billed to Medicare Benefits Scheme</b>			
	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14 (31 May)</b>
Carnarvon	6,883	6,708	5,669
Exmouth <sup>1</sup>	6,059	5,753	5,300 (estimation)
Shark Bay	613	947	1,030
Meekatharra <sup>2</sup>	4,745	4,608	3,878 (as at 30 April)
Onslow	Nil	1,383	2,646
Derby <sup>3</sup>	Unavailable***	Unavailable***	13,501
Fitzroy	12,697	10,903	9,672
Halls Creek <sup>4</sup>	Not established	5400 (Est)	5450(Est)
Kununurra <sup>4</sup>	Not established	5,903(Est)	5,418(Est)
Warmun <sup>5</sup>	560 (est)		
Wyndham <sup>4</sup>	Not established	3850(Est)	4250(Est)

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Exmouth 2013/14 data estimation due to data retrieval staff being off site.

<sup>2</sup> Meekatharra Program is managed by the RFDS which commenced May 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Derby data unavailable due to a change in billing software.

<sup>4</sup> Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham data estimated due to issues in billing software.

<sup>5</sup> Warmun data for 2012-13 and 2013-14 included in Kununurra figures due to billing doctors being Kununurra-based.

<b>Income generated for Medicare Benefits Scheme</b>			
	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
Carnarvon	\$427,600	\$584,214	\$624,139
Exmouth	\$438,651	\$551,705	\$548,429
Shark Bay	\$28,233	37,529	\$46,388
Meekatharra	Unavailable	358,284	358,068
Onslow	Nil	\$62,317	\$120,332
Derby	\$734,499	\$879,857	\$908,511
Fitzroy Crossing	\$885,842	\$762,783	\$681,507
Halls Creek	Not established	\$382,513	\$416,021
Kununurra	Not established	\$439,389	\$644,221
Warmun <sup>1</sup>	* see Note	* see Note	\$53,628
Wyndham	Not established	\$278,074	\$325,827

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Warmun income is consolidated with Kununurra income figures, due to the billing doctors being Kununurra-based.

(h)

Percentage of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous patients		
Site	Indigenous	Non indigenous
Carnarvon	37%	63%
Exmouth	1%	99%
Shark Bay	Not available	Not available
Meekatharra <sup>1</sup>	34%	66%
Onslow	25%	75%
Derby	56%	44%
Fitzroy Crossing	73%	27%
Halls Creek	100%	0%
Kununurra	50% other indigenous clients to OVAHS	100% for chronic disease 50% for other 19.2
Warmun	100%	0
Wyndham	95%	5%

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Meekatharra Program is managed by the RFDS and the data provided is an approximation.