

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

tabled paper.

Wednesday, 26 November 2014

2238. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health.

With reference to the operations of the Royal Flying Doctor service for the financial year period 2013-14, I ask:

- (a) how many flights were conducted to transfer patients to Perth from:
- (i) Port Hedland;
 - (ii) Karratha;
 - (iii) Tom Price;
 - (iv) Newman;
 - (v) Paraburdoo;
 - (vi) Pannawonica;
 - (vii) Onslow;
 - (viii) Broome; and
 - (ix) Derby;
- (b) for each of the above flights, will the Minister identify the nature of the illness, medical condition or mental health condition that required the transfer;
- (c) if no to (b), why not;
- (d) what is the cost of the flights from each of the above locations; and
- (e) who pays for the flights from each of the above locations?

Answer

- (a)(i) 242
- (ii) 282
- (iii) 68
- (iv) 133
- (v) 16
- (vi) 3
- (vii) 34
- (viii) 273
- (ix) 63

(b) [See tabled paper no]

(c) Not applicable.

(d) WA Country Health Service (WACHS) paid a fixed cost (\$15.85 million) to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) for provision of interhospital services in 2013-14.

Additionally, the fee per patient for transfers from the following locations was:

Port Hedland – \$5,743.44

Karratha – \$6,037.20

Tom Price – \$5,743.44

Newman – \$5,892.48
Paraburdoo – \$5,752.08
Pannawonica – Not applicable; see (e)
Onslow – Not applicable; see (e)
Broome – \$7,935.84 and
Derby – \$7,832.16

(e) WACHS pays for the flights from each of the above locations, with the exception of Onslow and Pannawonica. Transfers from Onslow and Pannawonica are funded under RFDS' agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Health.

International Classifications of Diseases code	Port Hedland Regional Hospital	Karratha Hospital (Nickol Bay)	Tom Price Hospital	Newman District Hospital	Paraburdoo Hospital	Pannawonica	Onslow Hospital	Broome Hospital	Derby Regional Hospital
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	<5	<5						<5	
Circulatory system diseases	53	61	8	30	<5	<5	10	89	19
Congenital anomalies	<5	<5		<5				<5	
Digestive diseases	24	37	5	10	<5		<5	31	<5
Diseases of ear and mastoid								<5	
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and immune mechanism	<5	<5							<5
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	9	<5	<5	<5				<5	<5
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue		5		<5			<5	<5	<5
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	9	<5		<5				<5	
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services		<5							
Genitourinary system diseases	13	14	<5	<5			<5	17	<5
Infectious and parasitic diseases	<5	6		<5				8	<5
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	52	69	22	39	<5		13	64	20
Mental and behavioural disorders	6	5	5	<5	<5		<5	<5	
Neoplasms	<5	11	<5					<5	<5
Nervous system diseases	7	11	<5	7	<5			<5	<5
Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	12	11	6	6	<5		<5	7	
Respiratory diseases	28	16	<5	7				16	<5
Symptoms, signs not elsewhere classified ¹	19	23	10	20	<5	<5	<5	17	<5

Note: In communities where there were less than five (5) patients <5 has been used to protect patient confidentiality.

¹ The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), is the standardised classification system applied in all Australian acute health facilities and by the RFDS. It is based on the World Health Organisation ICD-10 system, updated with the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI), Australian Coding Standards (ACS) and ICD-O-3 (International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd edition). This category refers to less well-defined conditions and symptoms that require further review to establish a final diagnosis.