

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C1523

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Wednesday, 2 December 2015

Hon Robin Chappie MLC to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Holman Review into Aboriginal Health Programs in WA and to the Minister's comments that only programs considered 'poor' or 'marginal' would no longer receive funding, and ask:

1. Will the Minister please table a list of all programs that have had their funding discontinued as a result of the Holman Review?
2. Are there any programs on this list that were considered 'good', 'very good' or 'outstanding' in the Holman Review, yet have had their funding discontinued?
3. If yes to (2), will the Minister please outline reasons why for each program?
4. Was the Aboriginal Mobile Children's Ear Clinic, or 'Ear Bus' program, considered 'poor' or 'marginal' in the Holman Review and if not, why was its funding discontinued?

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

(1) No. To safeguard the interests and integrity of the service providers, it would not be appropriate to disclose the details of the programs that were assessed as "marginal" or "poor". Funding was maintained for around 88% of Aboriginal Health Programs that were assessed by the Holman Review as 'good', 'very good' or 'outstanding'. Funding was not continued for the programs rated as 'marginal' or 'poor'.

(2) Yes. Mobile Ear Health Screening Services (Ear Bus) delivered by the Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre for Children WA; and Chronic disease management; and health promotion program provided by Unity of First People of Australia Ltd Primary Health Service (UFPA).

(3) Refer to (4) for the reasons to discontinuation of the Ear Bus program provided by Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre for Children WA.

In relation to the chronic disease management; and health promotion program provided by UFPA, there were consistent issues with the quality of their reporting against contractual outcomes. Based on their prior performance, UFPA were not accorded Preferred Provider Status. The screening component of the UFPA program was a duplication of WACHS



clinical services and there was a lack of coordination with WACHS Kimberley for follow-up care.

(4) No. Child and Adolescent Community Health had a contract with Telethon Speech and Hearing to provide ear screening (Ear Bus) from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2011. The contract was extended seven times beyond term and could not be extended beyond 31 December 2015.

This was communicated to Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre for Children WA in September 2014, June 2015 and September 2015.