

FLUORIDATION — KUNUNURRA

346. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Why has no survey been conducted in Kununurra regarding fluoridation of the town's water, as there has been in other regional towns targeted for fluoridation, including Bunbury, Hedland, Moora, Jurien Bay, Two Rocks and Yanchep?
- (2) Will a survey be conducted for Kununurra?
- (3) If no, why not?
- (4) Will there be any further consultation with the people of Kununurra regarding fluoridation of the town's water?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I am advised by the Department of Health as follows.

- (1) Community views have historically been gathered at community meetings and through formal communication with the relevant local government authority acting as the community's elected representative. During the period of consideration from 2010 to 2015 no information came from Kununurra, Newman, Dongara or Port Denison to indicate that the community was opposed to fluoridation.
- (2) No.
- (3) Community views are one part of the assessment process considered prior to a final recommendation. This assessment process has concluded, with the former Minister for Health directing in January 2015 that water fluoridation occur in Kununurra by December 2017.
- (4) Yes. The Department of Health has committed to conduct a community information session in Kununurra prior to the commencement of fluoridation in December 2017.