Question on Notice
No. 475
Asked on 15 April 2008

MRS STUCKEY asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With regard to children treated at Woorabinda Hospital—

(1) How many children aged 12, 13, 14 and 15 years old (reported separately) have received contraceptive implants such as 'Implanon' in 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08 (to date) (reported separately)?

(2) How many children aged 12, 13, 14 and 15 years old have been diagnosed with one or more sexually transmitted diseases in 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08 (to date) (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

(1) No children received contraceptive implants through the public service at the Woorabinda Multipurpose Health Service.

(2) Notifications for sexually transmitted diseases are provided by separate disease, therefore it is impossible to provide an exact number of children with a diagnosis without interrogating each patient file, file by file.

This would be an unreasonable use of valuable clinical resources at Woorabinda and would risk the improper identification of patients, as there are just 382 children under the age of 16 living in the community.

I can advise that Queensland Health has been providing proactive screening and counselling efforts through dedicated Queensland Health service providers in Woorabinda.

All Queensland Health doctors and nurses are obliged to report cases of suspected sexual abuse. The staff of Woorabinda Multipurpose Health Service are aware of these obligations, have undergone the required training and make reports to the Department of Child Safety when necessary in accordance with this.