



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
HEALTH

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24 August 2018

The Honourable Speaker
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Private Bag X 0029
Bhisho
5605

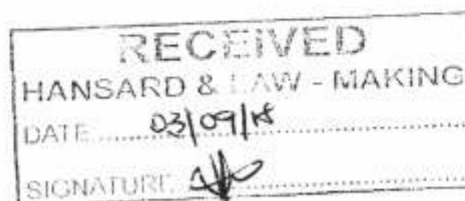
Dear Honourable Kiviet

**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE TO THE INTERNAL QUESTIONS
FOR WRITTEN REPLY.**

As per the Provincial Legislature rules, kindly find the response affecting the Department of Health. Attached find reply to question number 28.

Yours faithfully

Helen Sauls- August
Member of the Executive Council



351. Ms J Cowley to ask the MEC responsible for Health:

Noting that the Nelson Mandela Tertiary Hospital in Mthatha opened a state-of-the-art cardiology unit (also referred to as a catheterisation laboratory) earlier this year to service all cardiology and paediatric cardiology patients on the eastern side of the province, and further noting that the paediatric unit is reportedly still unstaffed, with the result that babies requiring cardiac treatment reportedly have to travel all the way to Port Elizabeth and back for treatments, and paediatric cardiologists are still waiting to be appointed:

- (1) What has caused the delay in staffing the paediatric cardiology unit;

RESPONSE

The Department was in the process of recruiting a Paediatric Cardiologist and has found one who recently qualified in the WSU Post Graduate training program and applied for the post at the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital. The Paediatric Cardiologist will in start on 1 October 2018. At the moment, only the Adult Cardiology services are being offered at Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital.

- (2) what steps has her Department taken with a view to ensuring that the paediatric cardiology unit is fully staffed as a matter of urgency, in order to ensure that babies and young children with cardiac conditions on the eastern side of the province are catered for?

RESPONSE

The Paediatric Cardiologist will assume duty on 01 October 2018 and the service will commence then, through the sharing of staff between the existing Adult and new Paediatric cardiology units.