

UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN HEALTH SERVICE, OPERATING BUDGET

74. Mr WALDRON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can the minister tell the House why the Upper Great Southern Health Service, which has a service agreement with the Health Department, has been able to draw only half of its agreed operating budget of \$1.2 million for the month of May?
- (2) Will a similar arrangement be required in June?
- (3) Which other regional health services will be affected in this way?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) I thank the member for the question. I said in the House the other day that the Government is imposing a regime of accountability on the whole health system. The Upper Great Southern Health Service has been asked to use its allocation of moneys responsibly, as applies to any other area of health, and to call upon its proper budget process - nothing more and nothing less than that. The money will be available to it, as it is now.
- (2) As we move into the budget period, a similar arrangement is required of all health services until the end of this financial year, simply to impose a regime of accountability which, unfortunately, appears to have been missing in the past.
- (3) I ask the member to detail the issues in his third point so that I can answer the question specifically. My predecessor in the health portfolio will be well aware of the processes that we must go through. Those budget issues were outlined in some excellent articles yesterday in *The West Australian*. All those issues will be addressed as we head into the budget period; however, I emphasise that from now on there will be a regime of accountability in health that has not been applied in the past eight years.