

PORT HEDLAND REGIONAL HOSPITAL, REDEVELOPMENT

967. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the recently announced amalgamation of the east and west Pilbara health services. I am sure that the minister is aware that this department not only provides health services in Port Hedland but also is one of the major employers of local people in the town.

- (1) Will the minister give me a categorical assurance that the Port Hedland Regional Hospital will maintain its regional status?
- (2) Will the minister give me a categorical assurance that no jobs will be lost in Port Hedland as a result of this change?
- (3) Will the minister give me a categorical assurance that Port Hedland will not lose its regional headquarters?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(3) My understanding is that that was an administrative change and had nothing to do with the structure or the usage of the hospital. In any administrative change, particularly with administrative offices, one can never guarantee that some jobs will not be rationalised, and I would be foolish if I were to try to do so. I do not know the details of the change, although I know they are working towards it. Port Hedland Regional Hospital is a hub hospital for that area and I see no reason for change at this stage. It has certainly not been indicated to me, other than the redevelopment of Port Hedland hospital. I know the member has had some discussions about the site for that hospital. With the number of people in that area and the need for services, there is no indication that any of that will change.