

DISTRICT HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS, CONSULTATION PROGRAM

607. Mr M.W. TRENORDEN to the Minister for Health:

The minister previously advised that the new district health advisory councils would be established early in 2003.

- (1) When will appointments for the district health advisory councils be finalised? There are few around.
- (2) In the absence of those councils and given that the minister abolished all country hospital boards almost 12 months ago, what consultation program has been put in place for people living in regional Western Australia to ensure that their interests are taken into account?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) The people who work in smaller country hospitals still live in those towns. Nothing has changed in that regard. They are members of the community. I cannot give the member a specific date for when the councils will be established, but I am more than happy to take that on notice. I know that their progress is on line. We have received applications for the groups that will put those councils together, which are being considered. I do not know what is the time frame for that. I am more than happy to reply to the member on notice if he wishes.

I know that there are some variations in timing. We undertook with the Shire of Broome to not establish a council until the reviews were finished. I understand that they have now been finished. Similarly in the south west region, because of the nature of the establishment under Michael Moodie, there is a slight difference in the way that the service is being put together in that region. I cannot give the member specific dates, but I am happy to let him know.

As far as consultation is concerned, all the same networks are still there. The formal meetings of the boards do not occur, but people are still communicating in the same way as they did previously. I assure the member that they are bringing their concerns to me on a regular basis.

Mr M.W. Trenorden: Can you let us know whether applicants have been advised, because communities are asking us when they will come and who they will be?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I cannot give the member specific details. I am more than happy to provide that information to the member out of session.