

RURAL AND REGIONAL AREAS, GOVERNMENT SERVICES

577. Mr L. Graham to the Minister representing the Minister for the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne
- (1) Which Government services delivered within the Minister's area of regional responsibility are considered to be of a comparable standard to that which applies in the metropolitan area?
 - (2) Which Government services delivered within the Minister's area of regional responsibility are considered NOT to be of a comparable standard to that which applies in the metropolitan area?
 - (3) On what date was each Government service referred to in (1) assessed?
 - (4) How was each Government service referred to in (1) assessed?
 - (5) On what date was each Government service referred to in (2) assessed?
 - (6) How was each Government service referred to in (2) assessed?
 - (7) Why are the Government services referred to in (2) considered not to be of a comparable standard to that which applies in the metropolitan area?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (1)&(2) It is acknowledged that smaller and remote communities in Western Australia historically do not have the same access to Government services as communities in major regional centre or the metropolitan area. However, the Government is committed to ensuring the needs of regional, rural and remote communities are met through appropriate Government services.
- (3)-(6) Apart from the ongoing monitoring of service delivery by relevant agencies, the Development Commissions are required as part of their core business activities specified under the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993, to monitor the general standard of Government services and access to those services to ensure that they are comparable to the metropolitan area.

To assist with acceptable benchmarking and ongoing assessment, the Regional Development Council is developing a 'regional indicators' data set.
- (7) See answer to questions 1 and 2.