

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, RESIGNATION OF SENIOR MANAGERS

146. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it the case that the heads of six mental health services at Bentley Hospital, Graylands Hospital, Fremantle Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, the Metropolitan Mental Health Service and the mental health division of the Health Department have recently resigned or are soon expected to resign?
- (2) Can the minister reassure the House that the systematic obliteration of senior management in mental health and the resultant brain drain will not adversely impact on the delivery of these essential services?
- (3) Can the minister advise whether any other heads of departments or the State's public hospitals will be leaving the public service?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) I have no knowledge of any members of the mental health division submitting resignations, but I have no doubt that in an organisation of approximately 27 000 people, some do leave from time to time. As for the heads of other parts of the department, as the Premier has pointed out this afternoon, many people have indicated an interest in what are known as management-initiated redundancy schemes. Many people will no doubt continue to indicate their interest in these schemes and they will be treated in exactly the same way.

Mr Board: Is the minister saying that he has no knowledge of anyone leaving the mental health area?

Mr KUCERA: I have no specific knowledge. I have not been advised of anybody resigning. As I said, these redundancies are being offered right across the public service.

Mr Day: Including psychiatrists?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr KUCERA: As that information comes to hand, I will advise members accordingly.