Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Thursday, 15 August 2002] p173c-174a Mr Bob Kucera

SELBY CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE RELOCATION REVIEW GROUP, REPORT

Statement by Minister for Health

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine - Minister for Health) [9.20 am]: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to announce today that the State Government will retain mental health services for children in the western suburbs and expand service provision in the north metropolitan area. This decision follows from the state government review into the relocation of the Selby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, which was chaired by my parliamentary colleague Hon Graham Giffard, MLC, member for the North Metropolitan Region.

The need to relocate the Selby clinic arose due to the transfer of the land on which it is located to the Department of Education. It is certainly acknowledged, as noted in the report that "the selection of the relocation site for the Selby Child and Adolescent Health Service is an important and difficult decision." The decision was so difficult in fact that the review committee was unable to arrive at a consensus. Nonetheless, the substantial amount of valuable work undertaken by the committee, as reflected in its report, has enabled the Government to make a well-informed decision about the most appropriate option for the service relocation. The four options presented by the review committee for the re-location included: moving the service entirely to the Mirrabooka area; moving the service entirely to the inner city area; retaining the service entirely in the western suburbs yet relocating it to another site; and splitting resources across the North Metropolitan Health Service to allow the development of a service in Mirrabooka and the retention of a smaller service in the western suburbs.

It is the Government's view that the fourth option presented the most appropriate option in the provision of mental health services to young people. As a result of endorsing the option of a split resource across the North Metropolitan Health Service, a new outreach service will be funded to cater for children in Mirrabooka and surrounding areas. The Mirrabooka service will operate out of the Warwick Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, and a service for children in the western suburbs will be maintained. A site to replace the Selby site will be identified as quickly as possible.

An additional \$200,000 has been allocated to expand the services, and implementation will commence immediately. Multi-disciplinary teams, including social workers, psychiatrists, mental health nurses and psychologists will be available at both sites to offer a comprehensive service to families. All staff at the current Selby site will be consulted about where they want to work as part of the development of the new services.

I take this opportunity to thank Hon Graham Giffard, members of the review committee and the staff from the North Metropolitan Health Service for their contributions to the review. I also specifically thank and acknowledge the staff of the Selby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service for their dedication to delivering the highest quality of service over the years. I now table the report to the Minister for Health from the Selby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Relocation Review Group.

[See paper No 142.]