

RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES, GERALDTON

**166. Mr S.R. HILL to the Minister for Health:**

Will the minister provide an update on the expansion of renal dialysis services in Geraldton?

**Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:**

I am pleased to inform the House that an extra four dialysis chairs have been installed at Geraldton Regional Hospital, increasing the total number of chairs to eight. This doubles the capacity of the hospital to allow up to 32 patients to be treated each week, an increase of 16 patients overall. This increased capacity means that more people can now deal with end-stage renal failure in Geraldton instead of having to be treated in Perth away from their families and loved ones. Geraldton is an enormously popular holiday destination. People who have been confined to the city because of a lack of dialysis units will now be able to visit Geraldton during their holiday periods, provided they make arrangements ahead.

Mr M.F. Board interjected.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Diabetes is a major health issue, and the Government is committed to providing a range of satellite services. In answer to the member for Murdoch's question, we are gradually extending the range of satellite chairs across the State at this time. Last month, I opened four further chairs in Albany, thanks to the great efforts of the member for Albany, Mr Peter Watson. We will be opening a further 10 chairs in Broome in the near future. The new unit in Geraldton will be officially opened in November. As a result of all the member for Geraldton's hard work, I invite him to please officiate at that opening. I would be delighted to have him there.