

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

301. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to his recent comments on Radio 6PR, when he asked whether we could afford emergency departments in every hospital, and whether it was necessary to build up outer hospitals to exactly the same level.

- (1) In which of the so-called outer hospitals does the minister intend to cut back emergency services?
- (2) Is the slashing of emergency services a hidden part of the minister's so-called new reform agenda for the health system as announced in *The West Australian* last Saturday?
- (3) Do these comments not fly in the face of recent comments that we need to build up services in our secondary hospitals?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I answered the same question on 28 June, but I will go through the answer again.

- (1) None.
- (2) No.
- (3) I refer the member for Murdoch to reports of the former coalition Government in 1995 and 1996 - the Auditor General's report of 1995 and Dr Paul Mark's report of 1996 - which give a clear direction forward for the building up and sorting out of emergency services in this State. Also, in June of this year the Government asked Dr Paul Mark to revisit his report and what had been done. So far very little has been done.