

HOSPITALS, BED CLOSURES

1822. Dr Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many beds were closed in each of the following public hospitals at 20 May 2002 –
- (a) Royal Perth Hospital;
 - (b) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
 - (c) King Edward Memorial Hospital;
 - (d) Princess Margaret Hospital; and
 - (e) Fremantle Hospital?
- (2) Why were the beds identified in (1) closed at 20 May 2002?
- (3) How many of the beds identified at Royal Perth Hospital in (1) were located in cardio-thoracic wards?

Mr KUCERA replied:

1. (a) 1
 (b) 39
 (c) Nil
 (d) 36
 (e) 26
2. The number of beds in use on a particular day is dependent on a variety of factors. These include prudent management of resources to ensure that individual hospitals are able to provide an effective service throughout the year within their allocated budget while taking into account variations in service demand, variations in the availability of key clinical and nursing staff at certain times of the year, the need to refurbish hospital inpatient wards from time to time and for other operational reasons such as infection control.
3. None