

TOBACCO STRATEGY, FUNDING IN NORTH WEST

1244. Mr Graham to the Minister for Health

I refer to the recently announced tobacco strategy and ask -

- (a) how much of the proposed \$8 million is to be spent on programs in the north west of the State;
- (b) in which towns and communities will the funds be spent;
- (c) who will be responsible for administering the funds; and
- (d) when will the programs commence operation in each town referred to above?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (a) The \$8 million to which you refer is the Government's commitment towards improving public and community health services through its Health Improvement Plan over four years. That is, the Government is injecting an additional \$8 million over four years to the existing budget utilised for all of public and community health. Of this \$8 million injection over four years, this year's allocation includes \$500 000 allocated to boost state-wide tobacco control activities in this period. Thus, this is \$500 000 on top of the regular budget allocation for Quit WA at the Department of Health. This \$500 000 boost will benefit the north west of the state in that the money will be used for state-wide tobacco control initiatives.
- (b) Funds have been approved for state-wide tobacco control activities. The funds are being utilised for:

A Campaign addressing the sale and supply of tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age
Projects addressing fertility and sterility issues among young men and women who smoke.

Both initiatives will have a state-wide focus and thus will encompass the north west of the State.
- (c) The administration of these funds will be the responsibility of the Department of Health.
- (d) The first phase of the Campaign addressing sale and supply of tobacco to minors occurred in September this year. A second phase is scheduled to occur within this financial period. The projects addressing fertility and sterility related to smoking in our young people are scheduled to commence in March 2002.