

NURSES - PAY AND CONDITIONS

**5. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:**

As this is the first opportunity I have had, may I congratulate the minister on his election and appointment to the Cabinet and congratulate all members elected to this place. During the election campaign the minister, the Premier and other members on the government side made considerable political mileage by claiming that the Court Government had failed the State's nurses. The minister told the nurses and the wider community that his Government's pay and conditions offer would be far superior to anything the Court Government would offer.

- (1) Why did the minister mislead the nurses and the wider community on this issue?
- (2) When will the minister offer the agreement he promised?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I thank the member for Murdoch for his congratulations and for his question.

- (1)-(2) The question highlights the enormous amount of effort made by this Government in the seven weeks it has been in office, as opposed to the lack of effort nurses had to endure for many years under a Liberal Government. The difference between \$288.5 million and \$104 million is fairly significant. Negotiations are well under way. It would be interesting to know how many times in the past seven weeks the member for Murdoch has been into a hospital and spoken to the many hundreds of nurses to whom I have spoken and, indeed, how many members opposite have spoken to nurses during that time. If they had, they would have found that the offer made by their Government was totally inadequate and that this Government's offer of \$288.5 million is in place. It may interest those opposite to know that today the Government is in full negotiation with a counteroffer presented to the Australian Nursing Federation.