

REVIEWS, COMMITTEES, INQUIRIES AND TASK FORCES, MINISTER FOR HEALTH, REFUSAL TO
PROVIDE INFORMATION

199. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Health

I refer the Minister to the answers to questions on notice Nos. 1572 and 1637 and ask -

- (a) why did the Minister not provide the information requested when every other Minister has been able to provide the same information asked of them;
- (b) is the Minister, by his refusal to provide the information, deliberately concealing or hiding information, in particular the costs of reviews, committees, inquiries and taskforces from the public of Western Australia;
- (c) does the Minister, by his refusal to provide this information, think the people of Western Australia are incapable of understanding the costs involved
- (d) does the Minister, by his refusal to provide this information, think that the people of Western Australia will see that the Minister is wasting health funding on reviews, committees, inquiries and taskforces while service delivery suffers;
- (e) will the Minister now provide the information; and
- (f) if not, is this not a breach of the Gallop Government's pre-election commitment to accountability and transparency?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) The information was not readily available at that time and required diverting resources.
- (b) No
- (c) No
- (d) No
- (e) Yes

The answer to question 1572 is as follows:

1. 14.

The committees and other processes listed below are some of the most significant established in the health portfolio since February 2001. In a Department of some 30 000 people working from over 650 sites, identifying all committees would be an extensive and time consuming process. In the main, costs of committees and working parties are dealt with as part of normal departmental processes.

2 & 3 Drug Summit

Purpose

Enable the knowledge, experience and wisdom of the community to contribute to the long term and strategic policies to address the illicit drug problem in Western Australia.

Expenditure: \$308 590

Country Health Services Review

Purpose

To examine country health service delivery systems and issues and recommend directions for the next 3-5 years.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources.

Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATs) Review

Purpose

To examine issues relating to the funding and administration of PATs.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources

Review of the Practices of Optical Dispensers.

Purpose

To determine whether it is necessary to continue to regulate optical dispensers.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources

Review of Joondalup and Peel Health Campus Contracts

Purpose

To review the contracts between the State and the private operators of the Joondalup and Peel Health Campuses.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources, secretariat assistance provided by Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Bunbury Taskforce

Purpose

Review hospital and public health services available in the Bunbury region.

Expenditure: \$84 932.70

Report of the Review Committee on the future of Osborne Park Hospital

Purpose

To report to the Minister for Health on the future service profile and role for Osborne Park Hospital and possible uses for unused land on the hospital site.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources.

The Health Administrative Review Committee

Purpose

To make recommendations on the administrative structure of the Western Australian Government health system and the Health Department of Western Australia.

Expenditure: \$14 700

The salaries of two Department of Health staff seconded to assist the HARC Review were met by the Department of Health.

The Review of Child Protection Services

Purpose

To examine the management and resourcing of Child Protection Services.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources

The Review of the Abortion Legislation

Purpose

To review the operation and effectiveness of the legislation

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources

Review of the operation and effectiveness of Part IXB of the Health Act 1911 and the Health (Smoking in Enclosed Public Places) Regulations 1999.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources

Selby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Relocation Review Group

Purpose:

Make recommendations to the Minister for Health for the preferred relocation for the Selby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Expenditure: Within existing Department of Health resources

Comprehensive Review of Enrolled Nurse Education

Purpose:

To review the requirements for enrolled nurse education in Western Australia.

Expenditure: \$40 000

Review of the Mental Health Act 1996 (MHA) and the Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Defendants) Act 1996 (CLMIDA)

Purpose

To review the operation and effectiveness of the respective Acts

Expenditure: Review commenced recently. Information on expenditure will be available on completion of the Review

