

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, STAFF AND BUDGET

1586. Hon. M.F. Board to the Minister for Health

In relation to staffing and the budget of the Health Department of Western Australia -

- (a) what is the total number of people employed by the Health Department of Western Australia;
- (b) of these people, how many people are not involved with the direct care and treatment of patients and clients;
- (c) what are the responsibilities and functions of these people in the course of their work;
- (d) what amount in dollar terms is allocated to bureaucratic functions; and
- (e) what percentage of the budget is allocated to bureaucratic functions.

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (a) At 31 December 2001, 29 937 people were employed across the Department of Health portfolio.
- (b) A simple response to this question is not readily available due to the complexity of the health workforce and the multi dimensional involvement of staff in the provision of patient care.
- (c) Staff not directly involved in the treatment and care of patients undertake a wide range of functions, such as health policy development and planning, human resources management, financial administration, clerical support, management, legal services and liaison.
- (d) The Royal Street Services undertake many of the 'bureaucratic' functions of the Department of Health at an annual running cost of approximately \$34 million. This does, however, also include funding of a number of health protection activities.
- (e) The running cost of the Royal Street Services is less than 1.5% of the Recurrent Appropriation.