

HEALTH PROGRAMS, NORTH WEST

490. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Health

I refer to the recently announced new multi-purpose health centre in Wundowie, and ask: -

- (a) how much of the proposed \$437,000 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 R.C. KUCERA replied:

The Multipurpose Health Centre (MPC) at Wundowie has been part funded through the Regional Health Services (RHS) Program, which is a Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing initiative under the National Rural Health Strategy. The Program aims to help small rural communities expand their local primary health care services. The Program is flexible in that it provides for consideration of projects that meet the particular needs of and have the support of a community.

- (a) This is one of 11 projects throughout rural WA. The projects are understood to be significantly different from each other. The funds allocated to the Wundowie MPC are specific to that Project.
- (b) Other areas receiving funds under the RHS Program include the Kimberley, Murchison and Gascoyne.
- (c) The projects funded under the RHS Program are negotiated directly with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The MPC at Wundowie is administered through the WA Country Health Services' Wheatbelt Health Region.
- (d) The Wundowie Multipurpose Centre commenced operation in late 2001. Other RHS projects commenced in 2001/2002 and approvals have been ongoing.