

MR RON ANDREWS

159. Mr A.D. MARSHALL to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the recent correspondence that I received from the Minister for Health with regard to my inquiries on behalf of Mr Ron Andrews, a diabetic insulin-dependent pensioner, who has been without any bottom teeth and unable to access treatment through the community dental system since October 2001.

- (1) Does the minister consider it appropriate that after 10 months Mr Andrews is still waiting for dental work that is vital to his physical and mental wellbeing?
- (2) Why is the minister unable to advise when Mr Andrews will receive his dental treatment?
- (3) Will the minister concede that the case of Mr Andrews highlights the failure of this Government to properly fund the public dental system, with waiting times for dental work blowing out to 18 months for most cases - and please, minister, do not blame our Government for this Government's debacle?

The SPEAKER: Order! I am sure members know that when they ask a question there should be a reasonable chance that the minister knows what they are talking about. Presumably some notice of this question about a specific person was given. I hope that is the case. If the minister is aware of the particular case, I ask him to answer the question.

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I am not aware of the case. If the member for Dawesville were genuinely concerned about his constituent, he would write to me and put the question on notice so that I could do something about it. I remind the member that I receive dozens of inquiries about waiting lists from all members of the House every day of the week; and I make every attempt to deal with those inquiries when members make them properly. However, the member has come in here and is using this matter as a cheap political stunt. I ask the member to put the question on notice.