

SOUTH WEST HEALTH SERVICE, MANAGERIAL POSITIONS

129. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the minister aware of a proposal to reduce the number of health service managers in the south west area health service from 17 to eight?
- (2) Like these local communities, is the minister alarmed that this proposal will -
 - (a) increase administrator positions and further reduce the numbers of people actually delivering health services through south west hospitals; and
 - (b) result in administrators with no medical knowledge or qualifications making critical decisions on clinical procedures in hospitals?
- (3) Has the minister overridden or rescinded the decision to introduce these changes?
- (4) If so, when was this directive given and when will it be implemented?
- (5) If not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. The south west area health service has developed a proposal to consolidate the number of health service manager positions in the south west to improve the coordination and integration of services to communities. The proposal is out for discussion and consultation with the south west area health service managers and the relevant industrial associations.
- (2)
 - (a) The proposal is to increase the number of people delivering direct health services through a reduction in health service manager positions. Health service manager positions are currently full-time administrators.
 - (b) Health service managers in hospitals will be senior nurses with a clinical role.
- (3) The proposal has been circulated for discussion and consultation.
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.