

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

478. Mr M.W. TRENORDEN to the Minister for Health:

Given the minister's regular statements that Labor understands the health system better than anyone, I refer to the Auditor General's qualified audit opinion on the key performance indicators for the Department of Health for 2001-02.

- (1) Will the minister advise of the specific problems identified by the Auditor General that prevented him from forming an opinion on the key performance indicators of the Department of Health, Royal Street, East Perth?
- (2) Will the minister advise if all country health service boards have reported and been audited by the Auditor General for the 2001-02 financial year; and, if so, when were the reports tabled?
- (3) If not, has the minister tabled all necessary documents advising the House of his decision to approve an extension of time for the submission of annual reports for the health portfolio?
- (4) Have all annual reports been tabled within the approved extended time frame?
- (5) In response to a question I asked on this matter on Tuesday, 11 June 2002, the minister undertook to provide me with a breakdown of the financial reports for individual country health services. Will he now table those reports for the 2001-02 financial year and the budget allocations for the 2002-03 financial year?

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the National Party is probably aware that that was the world's longest question. I am pleased that there was some notice of a question of that length, otherwise it would have been unanswerable. This is not short speech time; it is a time for questions. The length of that question is more in tune with a question on notice. I am sure in the time the Leader of the National Party has been a member of this place, which is many years, he has seen very few questions of that length get through the process.

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I thank the Leader of the National Party for some notice of this question.

- (1) The reason stated for the qualification was the Auditor General deemed that the key performance indicators did not provide sufficient coverage of the following areas of the Department of Health's operations: chronic illness, mental health, health promotion and drug and alcohol. There is a continuing dialogue between the Department of Health and the Office of the Auditor General about the most appropriate key performance indicators for their areas, given the requirement to report on health outcomes.
- (2) Annual reports have been submitted for all 42 country health service boards - that is, reporting entities - for the financial year 2001-02. The Auditor General completed audits on nine of the 42 reports on 28 February 2003. None of the annual reports of the 42 rural reporting entities has yet been tabled.
- (3) Not as yet.
- (4) The annual reports of the Department of Health and Hawthorn Hospital were tabled on 10 and 17 December 2002 respectively. The financial statements were all submitted on time.
- (5) The 2001-02 financial reports of the nine reporting entities for which an opinion has been provided will be tabled in Parliament on 21 March 2003. Those nine entities are: Avon Health Service, Brookton Health Service, Gascoyne Health Service, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Health Service, Kimberley Health Service, Laverton and Leonora Health Service, Murchison Health Service, Peel and Rockingham Kwinana Health Services and Western Health Service.

From July 2002 the Western Australian country health services within the Department of Health combined all rural health services, except for those in the south west, into a single reporting entity. Thus, the budget allocation for WA country health services in the financial year 2002-03 was \$391 million and \$100 million for the South West Health Service.