

HEALTH, SOUTH WEST DISTRICT HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

308. Mr B.K. Masters to the Minister for Health

- (1) In reference to the Minister's media statement of 30 August 2002, announcing that nominations for the district health advisory committee for the South West would be called in the near future, when will nominations be called and how will the request for nominations be made?
- (2) What are the reasons justifying the delay in the creation of the committee when the South West contains the largest population outside of Mandurah and the Perth metropolitan area?
- (3) Will I as the member of Parliament for an electorate containing some 25,000 people be consulted by the Curtin University consultants as part of the Country Health South West consultative process, along with other members of Parliament who represent the South West?
- (4) Will a community health forum be held prior to the creation of the committee and, if so, will I and other members of Parliament be invited to attend?
- (5) If yes, can the forum be not held on a Parliamentary sitting day so that members of Parliament are able to attend?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

1. South West Area Health Service was established in January 2002. Since its establishment a process has commenced of talking to the community through workshops held with varying community groups, which included the former Board members, stakeholder groups, local government and members of the Aboriginal community across the south west to look at a number of mechanisms of how best to consult with the community. This has now concluded. Through the process it was recommended to hold a Health Forum. A range of consultative processes were also recommended which included that of a Health Advisory Committee to be established, the implementation of which will form part of the major discussion at the Health Forum.

South West Area Health Service is looking to establish health committees within the 16 communities across the South West and are proposing to advertise for expressions of interest for a South West Health Council in the New Year.
2. See above.
3. Consideration at the time was not to consult formally with Members of Parliament individually as the process was focussed towards community input and participation into the health service's planning and decision making process.
4. The Health Forum will be a public process Members of Parliament will be very welcome to attend.
5. Yes. Consideration will be given to ensure that the date for the Forum is held so as not to coincide with a Parliamentary sitting day.