

RURAL HEALTH SERVICES, FUNDING CUTS

**349. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:**

In the minister's answer, he indicated that assertions had been made. Representatives of the Rural Doctors Association of Western Australia were in the House today and indicated that they and their boards had been told to slash their budgets. Is the minister indicating that the Rural Doctors Association of Western Australia made incorrect statements?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I have already said that any assertions about the budget are speculative. How local managers and boards manage their budgets is up to them. I expect them to manage. From the first day of taking on this ministry, I said that I was privileged to take it on board. I regard the two key cornerstones of this ministry as the accountability of medical practice and of finance. I expect people to manage; it is as simple as that.