

NURSES, CENTRAL AGENCY

1821. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Health

I refer the Minister to *The West Australian* dated 19 December 2002 and the article titled, 'Nurse plan bid to slash agency bill' and ask -

- (a) when did this central agency come into existence;
- (b) how many nurses have signed on with this agency;
- (c) what is the rate of pay for nurses with this agency;
- (d) what was the budgeted expenditure on agency nurses by the Public Hospitals for the past 12 months;
- (e) what is the budgeted expenditure on agency nurses by the Public Hospitals for the next 12 months;
- (f) did this agency tender for the position of sole agency nursing provider;
- (g) were tenders called for the position of sole agency nursing provider; and
- (h) if not, why not?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (a) The Minister for Health opened the NurseWest offices on 3 July 2003.
- (b) NurseWest has commenced recruitment and as at 27 August 2003:  
Two hundred and forty application packages had been sent out,  
Thirty four applications had been received,  
Two nurses had been referred to hospitals for direct employment,  
Twenty three nurses had been interviewed,  
Twenty one nurses had been engaged by NurseWest, and  
Two applications had been declined.
- (c) NurseWest is a branch of the Department of Health and employs nurses at the agreed EBA rates of pay.
- (d) Budgeted Expenditure for the 2002/2003 financial year was:

EAST METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE	\$21,358,000
NORTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE	\$1,941,000
Note: The method by which North Metropolitan Health Service budgeted for agency nurse expenditure in 2002/2003 differed from the other Services. A uniform budgeting process was used for 2003/2004.	
SOUTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE	\$4,162,000
WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICE	\$4,700,000
WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICES	\$12,166,000
SOUTH-WEST HEALTH SERVICE	Nil.
TOTAL	\$44,327,000
- (e) Budgeted Expenditure for the 2003/2004 financial year is:

EAST METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE	\$15,750,000
NORTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE	\$5,628,000
SOUTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE	\$3,862,000
WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICE	\$4,000,000
WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICES	\$13,264,000
SOUTH-WEST HEALTH SERVICE	Nil.
TOTAL	\$42,504,000
- (f) No. NurseWest is a branch of the Department of Health, not an agency.

- (g) See (f) above.
- (h) See (f) above