

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

303. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Health:

I remind the minister of his Government's policy on regional health, which states -

Labor . . . will fund all public hospitals properly so they are able to perform a balance of urgent, emergency and waitlist activity as part of their normal provision of services . . .

- (1) Is it true that the Government plans to cut almost \$1 million from the budget of the Vasse Leeuwin Health Service once salary and service delivery increases are discounted against last year's budget?
- (2) Is it also true that the after-hours accident and emergency service at Busselton District Hospital will be cancelled to meet these proposed cuts, in spite of Busselton being the fastest growing municipal area in Australia?

Mr KUCERA replied:

The member for Vasse is well aware of the difficulties being experienced in his area in obtaining emergency doctors. He will also be aware of the lengths to which the Department of Health has gone to ensure a proper service in that area.

- (1)-(2) The simple answer to the member's question is no.