

HOSPITALS, NORTH WEST, SPECIALIST MEDICAL SERVICES

605. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Health

- (1) As of 1 November 2002 what visiting specialist medical services operate out of the following hospitals -
- (a) Port Hedland;
  - (b) Karratha;
  - (c) Wickham;
  - (d) Tom Price;
  - (e) Paraburdoo;
  - (f) Broome;
  - (g) Derby;
  - (h) Kununurra;
  - (i) Halls Creek; and
  - (j) Fitzroy Crossing?
- (2) What is the frequency of each visiting specialist service?
- (3) What changes, if any, are proposed for each visiting specialist medical service provided?
- (4) What is the reason for each proposed change?
- (5) If there is a cost associated with each change, what is the cost of each proposed change?
- (6) If there is a saving associated with each change, what is that saving?
- (7) If there is a saving made from the changes, what happens to the amount saved?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- 1.
- (a) Port Hedland - Cardiologist, Child Cardiologist, Dermatologist, ENT specialist, Ophthalmologist, Orthopaedic specialist, Plastic surgeon, Genetic Specialist, Renal Physician, Rheumatologist, Paediatrician, Urologist, Psychiatrist.
  - (b) Karratha - Cardiologist, Child Cardiologist, Plastic surgeon, ENT specialist, General Surgeon, Nephrologist, Ophthalmologist, Orthopaedic Specialist, Rheumatologist, Paediatrician, Radiologist, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Dermatologist, Psychiatrist.
  - (c) Wickham – Nil.
  - (d) Tom Price – Ophthalmologist, Orthopaedic specialist, Paediatrician, ENT specialist.
  - (e) Paraburdoo – Nil.
  - (f) Broome - Cardiology and Echo Cardiography; Dermatology; ENT; Orthopaedics; Ophthalmology; Rheumatology; Physician; Nephrology; General Surgery (Resident); Paediatrics; and Obstetrics/Gynaecology.
  - (g) Derby - Cardiology and Echo Cardiography; Dermatology; ENT; Orthopaedics; Ophthalmology; Rheumatology; Physician; Nephrology; General Surgery (Resident); Paediatrics (Resident); and Obstetrics/Gynaecology (Resident).
  - (h) Kununurra - Cardiology and Echo Cardiography; Dermatology; ENT; Orthopaedics; Ophthalmology; Rheumatology; Physician; Nephrology; General Surgery; Paediatrics; and Obstetrics/Gynaecology.
  - (i) Halls Creek - Cardiology and Echo Cardiography; Dermatology; ENT; Orthopaedics; Ophthalmology; Rheumatology; Physician; Nephrology; General Surgery; Paediatrics; and Obstetrics/Gynaecology.
  - (j) Fitzroy Crossing - Cardiology and Echo Cardiography; Dermatology; ENT; Orthopaedics; Ophthalmology; Rheumatology; Physician; Nephrology; General Surgery; Paediatrics; and Obstetrics/Gynaecology.
- 2.
- (a) Port Hedland  
Cardiologist – monthly  
Child Cardiologist – 6 monthly  
Dermatologist – 2 monthly  
ENT specialist – 3-4 monthly  
Ophthalmologist – 3 monthly

- Orthopaedic specialist – 6 weekly  
Plastic surgeon – 3 monthly  
Genetic specialist – 6 monthly  
Renal Physician – 3-6 monthly  
Rheumatologist – 6 monthly  
Paediatrician – 3 monthly  
Urologist – 2 monthly  
Psychiatrist – 2 weekly
- (b) Karratha  
Cardiologist – monthly  
Child Cardiologist – monthly  
Plastic surgeon – 3 monthly  
ENT specialist – 2 monthly  
General surgeon – monthly  
Nephrologist – 3 monthly  
Ophthalmologist – 3 monthly  
Orthopaedic specialist – monthly  
Rheumatologist – 6 monthly  
Paediatrician – monthly  
Radiologist – weekly  
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist – 2 weekly  
Dermatologist – 2 monthly  
Psychiatrist – 2 weekly
- (c) Wickham – N/A
- (d) Tom Price  
Ophthalmologist – 4 monthly  
Orthopaedic specialist – 2 monthly  
Paediatrician – 2 monthly  
ENT specialist – 4 monthly
- (e) Paraburdoo / N/A
- (f) Broome  
Cardiology and Echo Cardiography - 6 monthly.  
Dermatology - 6 monthly.  
ENT - approx 6 weekly.  
Orthopaedics - 3 monthly.  
Ophthalmology - 3 monthly.  
Rheumatology 6 monthly.  
Physician - 3 monthly.  
Nephrology - 6 monthly.  
Paediatrics - monthly  
Obstetrics/Gynaecology - monthly.
- (g) Derby  
Cardiology and Echo Cardiography - 6 monthly.  
Dermatology - 6 monthly.  
ENT - approx 6 weekly.  
Orthopaedics - 3 monthly.  
Ophthalmology - 3 monthly.  
Rheumatology 6 monthly.  
Physician - 3 monthly.  
Nephrology - 6 monthly.
- (h) Kununurra  
Cardiology and Echo Cardiography - 6 monthly.  
Dermatology - 6 monthly.  
ENT - approx six weekly.  
Orthopaedics - 3 monthly.  
Ophthalmology - 3 monthly.  
Rheumatology 6 monthly.

- Physician - 3 monthly.  
Nephrology - 6 monthly.  
General Surgery - monthly.  
Paediatrics - monthly  
Obstetrics/Gynaecology - monthly.
- (i) Halls Creek  
Cardiology and Echo Cardiography - 6 monthly.  
ENT - 2 monthly.  
Orthopaedics - 3 monthly.  
Ophthalmology - 3 monthly.  
Physician - 3 monthly.  
Nephrology - 6 monthly.  
General Surgery - 6 monthly  
Paediatrics - 2 monthly  
Obstetrics/Gynaecology - 4 monthly.
- (j) Fitzroy Crossing  
Cardiology and Echo Cardiography - 6 monthly.  
ENT - 2 monthly.  
Orthopaedics - 3 monthly.  
Ophthalmology - 3 monthly.  
Physician - 3 monthly.  
Nephrology - 6 monthly.  
General Surgery - 6 monthly  
Paediatrics - 2 monthly  
Obstetrics/Gynaecology - 4 monthly.
3. The Pilbara & Gascoyne region planned increases for visiting specialist services are:  
Paediatrics to Cotton Creek, Punmu, Marble Bar, Nullagine, Warralong, Yandeyarra and Jigalong.  
General Medicine to Cotton Creek, Punmu, Marble Bar, Nullagine, Jigalong, Karratha/Roeboorne  
Psychiatry – Jigalong, Newman/Tom Price, Nullagine, Marble Bar, Yandeyarra.  
The Kimberley region planned increases for visiting specialist services are:  
Paediatrics – to Kutjunka region, Fitzroy area, Gibb River Community, Bidyadanga.  
General Surgery – Fitzroy, Halls Creek, Wyndham.
4. To increase services for the communities and to deliver the services locally, from the resident specialists' services in the northwest, rather than from Perth. The Pilbara Gascoyne Health Region is also increasing specialist services from Perth in areas such as ENT, orthopaedics, ophthalmology.
5. The additional funds through the Medical Specialist Outreach Program are assisting health services to put more resources into increased visiting specialist programs.
6. Savings generally come by way of cost offsets through reduced patient travel costs. It is not possible to quantify the exact savings but they do help to offset overall costs.
7. There may be some savings generated by increasing local access to medical specialist services. Any savings go towards offsetting the cost of providing services.