

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, GOLDFIELDS

1153. Mr BOWLER to the Minister for Health:

Will the minister advise the House what is being done to improve community health services in the goldfields?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for his interest and particularly for the work he has done for Leonora. Today I am pleased to announce the construction of a new community health centre in Leonora worth \$1 million. Work will begin within six months and the new facility will be up and running by the middle of next year. It will include the local doctor's surgery, the home and community care services and a facility for community health. The original Leonora community health service building was vacated a number of years ago due to poor structural conditions. Many of these services in outlying areas were sadly neglected. A lot of support was given to some of the private hospital building that occurred around the city, but these small areas were neglected. This is part of the commitment the Labor Government is giving to the country.

Mr Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren-Blackwood!

Mr KUCERA: The people who need community health services are usually those who are less mobile, which is why it is so important that primary health services are easily accessible. People want their doctor and the other primary health services to be accessible. The single, unified system we are moving towards putting together, will ensure that Leonora, like everywhere else in the future - 10 years hence - will have a sustainable health service. I thank the member for the question and for the enormous effort he has put into guaranteeing the health services in his area.