

HEALTH, MEDICAL INFORMATION ON PRIVATE PATIENTS, CONFIDENTIALITY

962. Dr Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) Is any medical information pertaining to illness and treatment of private patients compiled in a central register and made available to medical researchers?
- (2) If yes, is consent from the patient required before this information can be collected?
- (3) Who has access to the compiled information and what can it be used for?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) Information about illness and treatment of admitted private patients is compiled at the Department of Health. Information may be made available to medical researchers who submit formal requests related to approved research projects and who meet specified criteria. Conditions related to use of the information are also applied.
- (2) As part of the admission process, patients give consent for information to be collected by the hospital and, as required by the Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927 some information is forwarded to the Department of Health.
- (3) Authorised staff at the Department of Health have access to the information. The information is used to support the administration of the health system of Western Australia, to meet National and Commonwealth reporting requirements, and for approved health research projects.