

FREMANTLE HOSPITAL, STROKE UNIT

259. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for Health

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Fremantle Hospital admits approximately 250 stroke patients a year and in May 2002 the Western Australia Stroke Strategy Implementation Plan recommended hospitals that admit more than 100 stroke patients should have a dedicated stroke unit?
- (2) When will the Stroke Reference Group begin to implement the recommendations of the Western Australia Stroke Strategy?
- (3) Is the Minister supporting the CEO of the South Metropolitan Region as part of the State Health Management team in actively encouraging the development of a stroke unit at Fremantle Hospital?
- (4) If so, how?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

1. The Department of Health is aware of the incidence of stroke in all areas of Western Australia. The recommendations contained in the Western Australian Stroke Strategy Implementation Plan are currently under consideration in the context of best practice and the continuum of care for chronic disease patients.
2. Action on enhancing services for stroke patients will commence during 2002-2003. The Western Australian Stroke Strategy and the Implementation Plan will inform this work.
3. The Government through the Department of Health is examining options for enhancing services for stroke patients in WA in the context of action on National Health Priority Areas. The need for dedicated stroke units in individual hospitals will be considered by the State Health Management Team in the light of advice from the Stroke Reference Group in the context of Statewide needs and priorities.
4. See above.
5. See above.