

DENMARK HOSPITAL, UPGRADING

313. Hon M G House to the Minister for Health

- (1) Will the Government honour the previous Government's commitment to providing a new hospital for Denmark?
- (2) Given the Premier's commitment during the recent state election campaign to improving facilities in regional Western Australia, will the Minister confirm if an upgrade is planned for the Denmark Hospital?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If so, is the upgrade to be included in the 2001/2 budget period?
- (5) Does the upgrade include aged care facilities?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) The previous Government did not allocate funding for Denmark District Hospital in the Health Department of Western Australia's forward estimates for Capital Works.
- (2)-(4) Government is currently reviewing the Health Department of Western Australia's Capital Works Program for 2001/02 which will be announced in the budget. In reviewing the program, priority will be given to election commitments, followed by other areas of need, having regard to the population to be serviced, the services to be provided and the condition of existing assets. Funding for additional and/or replacement facilities at Denmark District Hospital will be considered as part of this review.
- (5)-(6) Government is aware of community concerns about the shortage of high care and low care residential aged care facilities in the Denmark region. Residential aged care is a Commonwealth responsibility. The Denmark District Health Service is a Multi Purpose Site, an innovation where State and Commonwealth resources are pooled to enable flexible provision of a broad range of services that will best serve overall community needs. Priorities have been determined through the local management committee, which has five community members. This committee meets monthly and regularly consults the wider community. It has identified a preference for a mix of high care places, low care places, community care, palliative care, obstetrics, emergency and acute care.