

BUNBURY HEALTH TASK FORCE

**620. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Has the Government received the report of the Bunbury Health Task Force?
- (2) If yes, when was it received?
- (3) Did the task force make any recommendations for the provision of health services and/or mental health services in the Bunbury region?
- (4) Has the Government responded to those recommendations?
- (5) Will the minister table the report?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Bunbury Health Task Force interim report was received on 13 November 2001 and the final report was received on 29 April 2002.
- (3) Yes. Key recommendations of the task force concerning the provision of health services and mental health services in the Bunbury region include recommendation 11: capital funding being made available to upgrade the emergency department at Busselton District Hospital.  
Recommendation 17: that an intensivist medical specialist be recruited in Bunbury.  
Recommendation 18: that a review of mental health services in the south west take place with emphasis being given to initiatives to address the shortage of psychiatrists.
- (4) The south west area health service is developing the following for consideration by the Government -  
Recommendation 11: a capital works proposal is being developed for consideration in the Department of Health's capital works program.  
Recommendation 17: expressions of interest are being called internally for the appointment of a part-time director-intensivist for the Bunbury Regional Hospital's intensive care unit.  
Recommendation 18: an internal review has been undertaken of mental health services in the south west. A mental health telephone triage and case management system, South West 24, is being established. Negotiations are currently under way with the Office of Mental Health and Fremantle Hospital for psychiatrist cover. Recruitment of psychiatrists for the south west continues.
- (5) The Bunbury Health Task Force final report was tabled by the Minister for Health in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, 22 May 2002. See paper No 1511.