

PIT STOP PROGRAM, ALBANY

357. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Health

Will the Minister explain what the Pit Stop Program is and also is there any plans to have it set up in the Electorate of Albany.

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

In 1999 the Gascoyne Public Health Unit created the Pit Stop package for men to address the inequity of men's health with the recognition that men were the lowest users of primary health care.

A mechanical concept was employed with the recognition that men lavish more care and attention, and recognise the need for regular maintenance on their vehicles than for their own bodies.

Men are run through a seven point inspection:

- Chassis check (hip to waist ratio)
- Oil pressure (blood pressure)
- Torsion (flexibility)
- Fuel additives (alcohol)
- Exhaust (smoking)
- Spark plugs (testicular cancer)
- Duco (skin cancer)

Men that pass are deemed roadworthy and issued with a registration sticker. Failure in four or more tests warrants a yellow sticker and work issues highlighted.

The tests screen for some risk behaviours associated with development of chronic disease eg Cerebro Vascular Disease, Diabetes, Asthma which are included in State and National Health Priorities.

The Pit Stop program was launched in Albany on Friday 11 October 2002 and it is planned to provide the program at the Albany Agricultural Show to be held in November 2002. Other events will be identified in which to provide this program in the Great Southern Health Region.