

DENMARK HOSPITAL, BUDGET ALLOCATION AND TENDERS

2752. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for Health

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that the budgetary allocation for the proposed new Denmark Hospital is still in the Forward Estimates?
- (2) Will the Minister explain why the proposed new Denmark Hospital could not be built within the grounds of the existing hospital site?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of the date of the calling of tenders and contracts for the proposed new Denmark Hospital?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (1) The budget allocation of \$500,000 for planning of the new Denmark Health Facility remains in the Department of Health Capital Program.
- (2) It is possible to construct the new health facility within the existing grounds, but this option is considered unacceptable for the following reasons:

The topography of the site would restrict the ability to design a facility with functional areas grouped in an effective and efficient arrangement. It is likely that the a linear type building (similar to the current design) would be the only practical option. This would replicate the inappropriate functional relationships that exist in the current facility thus eliminating the opportunity for innovation and change and the incorporation of all of the best aspects of contemporary and emerging health care delivery.

The ability for future expansion to meet the needs of the growing population would be extremely limited

- (3) The development of the new facility will proceed once a suitable location and the appropriate health service model for Denmark are finalised.