

POLICE SERVICE, HEALTH DEPARTMENT DEBT

2393. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Health

I refer the Minister to question on notice No. 2018, asked on 16 September 2003 to the Minister for Police, and ask -

- (a) how much is owed to the Western Australia Police Service;
- (b) what is the cause of the debt to the Western Australia Police Service;
- (c) why wasn't this debt paid;
- (d) will the Minister now direct the Health Department of Western Australia to pay the debt; and
- (e) will the Minister ensure that the Health Department of Western Australia pays their debts?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (a)-(e) The debt refers to Commonwealth funding received by Police (via the Department of Health) for the provision of drug prevention grants. The Police Department assumed that the grant amount contribution from the Commonwealth would increase from \$146,000 to \$170,000. The Police Department then raised an invoice for the increased amount against Health for payment.

The funding provided to Health by the Commonwealth for this program was not increased, therefore Health only paid \$146,000 – leaving a shortfall of \$24,000 in the Police debtors system.

As the original invoice was raised for the incorrect amount, the outstanding balance of the debt (\$24,000) was written off by the Police Department in order to clear the debt from their system in accordance with normal accounting policies (Accounting Standards and the Financial Administration and Audit Act).

No moneys are owed to Western Australia Police Service (WAPS) by the Department of Health in respect to this matter.
