

PUBLIC HOSPITALS, REDUNDANCIES

**237. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:**

I ask a supplementary question. As the minister has advised that he is not aware of any such requests, he will not know of a memo dated 3 July, from former Royal Perth Hospital chief executive officer Gareth Goodier to divisional directors, advising that the hospital will again have to look at the staffing and efficiency of its operations, and that financial support to effect voluntary redundancies had been requested. My question to the minister -

The SPEAKER: I do not know how many times I need to say it, but a supplementary question should not have a preamble. The member for Murdoch has just read out a substantial preamble. At the end of three minutes he said he would then get to the question. If there is a straight question in relation to the answer given to the previous question, will the member for Murdoch please ask it, and not launch into a preamble.

Mr BOARD: Given that memos have been written, is the minister prepared to look into directions within the public hospitals in relation to voluntary redundancies?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I understand that Gareth Goodier no longer works for the Department of Health. No doubt he wrote many memos during his time as chief executive officer of Royal Perth Hospital. Royal Perth Hospital, like many other hospitals, is currently going through the budget process. It is being asked to look at its whole budgetary system and all the savings that need to be in place, as a result of the massive reforms the Government is carrying out to the health system. It will not be a quick fix, and no doubt the Opposition will intercept many hundreds of these memos over the next four to eight years as the reform process proceeds. I do not need to examine those things, as they are part of the hospital's management process. In fact, it is part of the accountability I now expect of all managers in our hospital system.