

ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL, LACK OF SURGEONS

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

As a result of a recent health survey in the Albany electorate, which revealed that the main concern of the people who replied to the survey was the lack of surgeons at the Albany Regional Hospital, will the Minister advise what steps are being taken to solve the problem?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

The Great Southern Health Region has initiated the following actions to alleviate the shortfall in the number of surgeons at Albany Hospital:

Has negotiated a new contract with the general surgeon currently located in Albany.

Has advertised for a second general surgeon to replace the surgeon who recently left Albany.

Has negotiated a surgical on call roster, ensuring 24 hour surgical cover at Albany Hospital.

Is investigating the possibility of attracting an overseas-trained orthopaedic surgeon who has shown interest in relocating to Albany.