

OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH, SOUTH WEST AND LOWER GREAT SOUTHERN CARER PROGRAM

1273. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the minister aware that Learning About Mental Problems; the Mental Health Carers Association, formerly known as the Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (WA); and Bunbury Pathways won an Office of Mental Health tender to provide a three-year carer program for the south west and lower great southern which began in January 2003?
- (2) Why has the Department of Health refused to renew annual consumer support service contracts as from the end of the 2002-03 financial year?
- (3) Will these contracts be renewed and fully funded?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. These contracts provide funding for 12 months. The option of a further two 12-month renewals is at the discretion of the Department of Health.
- (2) In line with the announcement made yesterday by the Minister for Health, a review of all contracts held by the Department of Health will be undertaken. All areas of the health system are being closely scrutinised in order to ensure that funding is directed to the areas of greatest need to provide direct health benefits to the public of Western Australia.
- (3) The review, which is to be concluded by December 2003, will identify the services that will receive future funding.
- (4) The review will inform the Department of Health what funding will be provided. The Government and the department will prioritise funding to the most appropriate services to provide the greatest direct health benefits to the public.