

HEALTH, AIDS AND APPLIANCES FOR LOW INCOME PATIENTS

330. Mr Bradshaw to the Minister for Health

- (1) Will the Minister be reviewing the provision of the supply of aids, such as, Incontinence Pads to low income patients?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Does the Government intend to assist low-income patients with such items?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) A wide range of aids and appliances are supplied for public hospital patients by Health Services. The Community Aids and Equipment Program funded by Disability Services Commission provides such items for people with permanent disabilities. The Continence Aids Assistance Scheme is a Commonwealth program for people with permanent disabilities between 15 and 65 years of age. Entitled veterans have access to incontinence aids with assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Lotteries Commission has provided funds to the Incontinence Pads Scheme for children with permanent incontinence. It is run by Spina Bifida Association. The latter three schemes are the only ones providing incontinence pads. The Commonwealth has primary responsibility for aged care. Most low-income people using incontinence pads will be aged. Therefore the matter of assistance for people with incontinence is regarded as a responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The needs of residents of nursing homes are met by the nursing home receiving Commonwealth funding.
- (3) N/A.