

HEALTH, RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES, BUDGET ALLOCATION

1616. Mr M.W. Trenorden to the Minister for Health

- (1) I refer to page 1075, Appropriation and Forward Estimates and ask -
 - (a) will the Minister provide budget information for each individual hospital cost centre in the South West Health Service and the Western Australian Country Health Service;
 - (b) if not, why not;
 - (c) will the Minister provide the level of funds allocated to each health service and region; and
 - (d) will the Minister provide details on the services that are available, delivered and consumed in each region and individual localities?
- (2) I refer to page 1075, Appropriation and Forward Estimates and specifically to the total appropriation to Health of \$2.65 billion in 2003-2004 and ask will the Minister provide details on -
 - (a) the overall health budget for rural and regional health services and hospitals in Western Australia for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004;
 - (b) the recurrent operating budget for each regional health service for 2003/2004;
 - (c) the recurrent operating expenditure for each regional health service in 2002/2003;
 - (d) the recurrent operating budgets for each of Perth's teaching hospitals in the 2003/2004 financial year;
 - (e) the recurrent expenditure for each of Perth's teaching hospitals for the 2002/2003 financial year;
 - (f) the capital works budget for each regional health service in 2003/2004;
 - (g) the allocation towards mental health services in the State budget;
 - (h) the allocation towards mental health services for rural and regional Western Australia; and
 - (i) the percentage of the budget dedicated to rural health services?
- (3) I refer to page 1075, Appropriation and Forward Estimates and specifically to the total appropriation to Health of \$2.65 billion in 2003-2004 and ask will the Minister provide, for all Country Health Services (ie Divisions) for the past 2 years, details on -
 - (a) the number of persons employed;
 - (b) their responsibilities;
 - (c) total Salaries;
 - (d) the increase or decrease in staff numbers;
 - (e) the total amount spent on administration; and
 - (f) the total amount spent on services and details of the services provided?
- (4) I refer to page 1075 Appropriation and Forward Estimates and given the appropriations total of \$2.65 billion for 2003-2004 -
 - (a) can the Health Department confirm the budget of each individual health service;
 - (b) if so, has each health service been contacted to inform them of their budget;
 - (c) if so, is there going to be any downgrading of services; and
 - (d) if individual health services have not as yet been advised of their budget, when will they be advised?
- (5) I refer to page 1075, Appropriation and Forward Estimates and specifically to the total appropriations outputs and ask -
 - (a) how much funding is allocated to fund the Rural Surgical Service in 2003-2004; and
 - (b) is there any allocation for this Service in the Forward Estimates?
- (6) I refer to page 1075, Mission, 4th dot-point and specifically to the Government's mission to deliver, '...a continuing and co-operative emphasis on improving the health status of our indigenous, rural and remote and disadvantaged populations' and ask -

- (a) will the Minister outline the specific initiatives contained in this budget that will help meet this commitment as it relates to people living in rural areas; and
- (b) what funds have been allocated specifically to meet this commitment for people living in rural areas?
- (7) I refer to page 1075, Significant Issues and Trends, dot-point 1 in line with the Government's move to achieve a sustainable rate of expense growth in health and ask -
 - (a) what accountability measures has the Government introduced into the health system;
 - (b) will the measures encompass all administrative areas of Perth hospitals such as trust accounts;
 - (c) will the Minister conduct an internal audit of the major hospitals; and
 - (d) is the Minister calling on senior management to be accountable for budgets and if so, what measures will the Minister take if management cannot keep to budget?
- (8) I refer to page 1075, Appropriation and Forward Estimate Table and that the Grand Total for 2003-04 is \$2.652 billion and of this it is stated that \$232 million is additional funding and ask how much of the \$232 million is allocated to providing additional hospital beds?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- 1 (a)-(b) Since the Health Administrative Review Committee (HARC) report was released, the structure of governance and administration established for metropolitan and country area health services in WA determines the levels of budget allocation and reporting. For the South West Health and the WA Country Health Service, budgets are allocated and reported at the whole of health service level. This is consistent with the Annual Reporting obligation to Parliament.

As budgets are not allocated to or reported at hospital levels since the new structures were put in place, it is not possible to provide the level of information as requested by the Member.
- (c) The internal Department of Health resource allocation process is currently in progress and data is not yet available for 2003/04.
- (d) There are an extensive range of services available within each region; hospital, emergency, outpatients, mental and community health. In addition each health region has its own population health unit.
- 2 (a) For 2002/03 and 2003/04. Refer to 1 (b) in that information will be reported at the whole of health service level and not at individual rural and regional health service level.
- (b)-(c) The recurrent operating expenditure for each regional health service in 2002/03 is not yet available. The information will be provided by August 2003.
- (d) Allocation information will be at the whole of health service level and not at teaching hospital level.
- (e) Expenditure is reported at the whole of health service level and not at the teaching hospital level.
- (f) The capital works budget for each health service in 2002/03 is not yet available.
- (g)-(i) Refer to answer 1(c)
- 3 (a) West Australian Country Health Service (WACHS)
2001/02 4,288
2002/03 not yet available

South West Area Health Service (SWAHS)
2001/02 1,101
2002/03 not yet available
- (b) The responsibilities of all staff for the Country Health Services are extremely vast. Responsibilities can be broadly broken down into the following categories:

Nursing
Administration & Clerical
Medical Support Services
Hotel Services
Medical
Maintenance

- (c) WACHS
 2001/02 213.4m
 2002/03 not yet available

 SWAHS
 2001/02 57.2m
 2002/03 not yet available
- (d) WACHS and SWAHS
 2001/02 – 2002/03 increase in FTEs is not yet available
- (e) WACHS
 2001/02 \$65.8m
 2002/03 not yet available

 SWAHS
 2001/02 \$16.6m
 2002/03 not yet available
- (f) WACHS
 2001/02 \$315.2m
 2002/03 not yet available

 SWAHS
 2001/02 \$90.6m
 2002/03 not yet available
- 4 (a) The internal resource allocation process is currently in progress and data is not yet available for 2003/04. The information at Health Service Level will be provided by August 2003.
- (b)-(c) Refer to answer 4(a)
- (d) The internal resource allocation process is currently in progress. It is anticipated that the process should be concluded by July.
- 5 (a) The internal resource allocation process is currently in progress and data is not yet available for 2003/04.
- (b) Refer to answer 5(a)
- 6 (a) A range of prevention and promotion specific initiatives are aimed at rural areas. A number of the planned 2003/04 achievements targeting rural areas include:
- Aboriginal Health
- The Department of Health provides services to rural, remote and metropolitan communities through a variety of NGOs. The services provided range from clinical, primary, environment health through to health promotion.
- Statewide Initiatives
- The National Group C Meningococcal Vaccination Program aims to vaccinate, over the next three years, all children and teenagers who turned between one and 19 years of age in 2003. The Department of Health will provide free Group C meningococcal vaccinations at school for years 7 to 12 students in 2003 and for Years one to 7 students in 2004. Children aged one to five years are receiving vaccinations in 2003 via general practitioners, the Department and local government immunisation clinics.
- A Hepatitis C strategy is to be developed and a Sexual Health Needs Assessment to be conducted in South West to identify gaps in services and health promotion.
- Undertake the Environmental Health Needs Survey (EHNS 2003) of all Aboriginal Communities in Western Australia.
- Identify new initiatives for addressing overweight and obesity and nutrition among vulnerable groups including Aboriginal people.
- Kimberley
- Improved child health, paediatric, general physician and psychiatric services.
- Pilbara & Gascoyne
-

Commence renovations to the Aboriginal Medical Clinic at Twelve Mile Creek in Port Hedland to provide culturally appropriate medical services to the community.

New sexual abuse centre will commence in Karratha.

Midwest & Murchison

New sexual abuse service will commence in the Murchison.

Establishment of a Women's Health Group in Meekatharra and Men's Health initiatives in Mt Magnet and Cue.

Goldfields & South East Coastal

Extension of the existing Healthy Lifestyle programs to all areas of the Goldfields and South East Health Region including the Nullarbor area.

Great Southern

Undertake further enhancement of the capacity of the Rural Community Support Program in the Great Southern Health Region.

Work towards a Healthy Community model integrating mental promotion/prevention strategies with General health, across all program areas (i.e. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Seniors) in the Great Southern Health Region.

Reinvigorate the Great Southern Health Region's Brief Intervention Program for Alcohol and Tobacco Use to enhance chances of improving lifestyle choices for patients admitted to hospital.

South West Health

Implementation of the Family Partnerships program that enhances the ability of health workers to work together with families on complex.

Development of the interagency pathways for early intervention on postnatal depression.

A Hepatitis C strategy is to be developed and a Sexual Health Needs Assessment to be conducted in South West to identify gaps in services and health promotion.

The South West Area Health Service is committed to implementing a 'Healthy Communities' framework into the 16 identified communities of the South West to be known as the 'Communities First' program.

- (b) The internal resource allocation for 2003/04 associated with these initiatives is still being finalised.
- 7 (a) Management makes every endeavour to appropriately adhere with legislative authorities and accountabilities eg FAAA. In addition to these compliances the Government has instigated the need for reform. The Government has initiated the Health Reform Committee
- During the course of the year the Expenditure Review Committee has expanded the reporting detail required from Health and considers the performance status of key business areas in the Health system. It is anticipated that at various times the various Health system executives will present to the committee on the status of performance in their particular areas of responsibility.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) There is already a comprehensive and independent health system internal audit program incorporating the teaching hospitals.
- (d) The Director General has committed to a service level agreement with each senior budget holder. This will serve to improve accountability in areas of the health system.
- 8 The internal resource allocation process is currently in progress and data is not yet available for 2003/04.