

DENTAL SERVICES

148. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

My question relates to the Government's plans for dental services in Western Australia, and I ask -

- (1) Does the Government intend to close down the Perth Dental Hospital and sell the site in Goderich Street?
- (2) If yes, when will it be closed, and what facilities and services will be made available for the 16 000 people who attend the Perth Dental Hospital each year?
- (3) Where will the technical services currently located at the Perth Dental Hospital be located?
- (4) Will the proposed new dental clinics at Armadale, Morley, Coolbellup and Joondalup be completed on time by December 2001?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) Firstly, a new Oral Health Centre of Western Australia is being constructed on the University of Western Australia land next to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. I am advised that this centre is being jointly funded by the university and the Health Department of Western Australia. The total cost of the new facility, including land, is estimated to be \$38 million, which will be cost-shared between the university and the Health Department.

It will provide both general practice and dental specialty services to eligible patients. It is nice to know that the former minister was looking after his own profession! The proposed centre's program will incorporate the training of dentists, specialist training and dental auxiliaries. The new building will replace the old one, which is now decades old. It will be the most modern dental hospital in the country and it will provide teaching functions, specialist services and some of the general practice dental services provided by the Perth Dental Hospital.

Planning is being undertaken with the University of Western Australia, dental health services and the Health Department to ensure the levels of service provided in the community will not be reduced following the opening of the new hospital. Those services not provided by OHCWA will continue to be provided by dental health services.

No decision has yet been made about the Perth Dental Hospital. No doubt I will be able to advise when that decision is made.

- (3) As I have said, I am advised that the proposed Oral Health Centre will take on board most of those services. I cannot advise specifically what they will be until the new clinic has been opened.
- (4)-(5) I have no advice on whether the proposed dental clinics at Armadale, Morley, Coolbellup and Joondalup will be completed by December 2001. If the member for Churchlands requires that information, I will provide it in due course.