

CHILD HEALTH NURSES, NORTH WEST, ENHANCED HOME VISITING PROGRAM

1451. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Health

I refer to the announcement made in December 2002, regarding a new intensive home-visiting service by child health nurses in the North Metropolitan area, under the Enhanced Home Visiting Program whereby funding had been allocated to employ 15 additional child health nurses across the State earlier this year, and ask –

- (a) what is the proposed funding allocation for this home visiting service program;
- (b) how much of the proposed funding is to be spent on home visiting service programs in the North West of the State;
- (c) in which towns and communities will the funds be spent;
- (d) who will be responsible for administering the funds; and
- (e) when will the programs commence operation in each town referred to above?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) Funding of \$750,000 in 2002/03 was allocated across the state to employ additional child health nurses to support the Enhanced Home Visiting program. A total of \$5,600,000 is proposed to be allocated over four years from 2001/02 to 2004/05. In addition, services are also being delivered by existing staff.
- (b) \$187,500 of the funding referred to in (a) for 2002/03 has been allocated to the WA Country Health Service to provide services in the North West of the State.
- (c) The Pilbara/Gascoyne and Kimberley Health Regions have responsibility for determining the best use of the additional resources to deliver services to areas they have responsibility for. Priority is determined based on health needs and drawing directly upon the local knowledge.
- (d) There is a well integrated network of local primary care service providers throughout the Kimberley and the Pilbara/Gascoyne. These services are strongly connected to local communities and their various systems and networks and as well, are linked with regional population health management units.
- (e) Programs have commenced in Port Hedland and Karratha and are being developed in the Kimberley region.