

FREMANTLE HOSPITAL, ADDITIONAL BEDS

32. Dr J.M. WOOLLARD to the Minister for Health:

Is it correct that the metropolitan emergency department task force has recommended additional beds for Fremantle Hospital? If so, has the Government given a commitment to provide the additional beds? If not, why not? If the minister does not know, will he report back to Parliament next week?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

The task force has presented a range of recommendations. As I said yesterday during the debate, we will methodically work through those recommendations. The emergency department of the Fremantle Hospital underwent renewal some time ago. Presently, the issues facing the Royal Perth and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospitals are far more urgent. The issue of the 60 beds at Fremantle Hospital will be dealt with in due course; I do not have a timetable for that. The issues involving all emergency departments have been well debated. We will work through those issues as the Health Department approaches the recommendations in due course.