

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICEHEALTH BOARDS, ABOLITION**

**585. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Does the Gallop Government intend to abolish the existing health boards in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, when and what does it intend to replace them with?
- (3) If so, how will community consultation and representation be built into the new structure?

**Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)-(3) In July 2001 the Western Australian Government accepted and endorsed the recommendations of the Health Administrative Review Committee report. Recommendations 7(i) and 7(ii) of that report refer specifically to the administration of non-metropolitan health services. It states -

7. NON-METROPOLITAN (COUNTRY) HEALTH SERVICES

The HARC recommends that:

Recognising the complex nature of non-metropolitan (country) health services and the disparate arrangements currently in place:

- i) A review be carried out over a six month period to develop the optimal approach to administration and co-ordination of non-metropolitan Boards and services.
- ii) The needs and concerns of non-metropolitan residents, local government and other relevant parties should be sought through an extensive consultation process. This should include consideration of aligning some broad regional boundaries with those used by the Regional Development Commissions in the interests of consistency for planning and other purposes.

Planning for the above consultation and review is under way, and the Government will be guided by the outcome of that process before making any decisions on the matters raised by the member.