

CARDIAC RECOVERY AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS, FUNDING

2268. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for Health

- (1) Given that cardiovascular disease is the single biggest cause of premature death in Western Australia and that cardiac recovery and intervention programs, such as Heartbeat, HeartSmart and the Great Southern Division of General Practice's Cardiovascular Health Program are acknowledged as pivotal to the recovery from and prevention of cardiovascular disease, will the Minister now agree that these community based programs must be able to continue and as a matter of urgency, immediately reinstate funding to the non government organisations performing cardiac rehabilitation?
- (2) If not, how does the Minister intend to address the real and immediate need for cardiac recovery and intervention programs in the community, particularly for those living in regional, rural and remote areas?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (1) All Department of Health funding to non-government organisations (NGOs) including those providing services in the area of cardiovascular disease, is under review. It is anticipated that this review will be completed by December 2003.
- (2) Notwithstanding any reduction, continuation or cessation of funding to NGOs, cardiac recovery and intervention programs in the community, particularly for those living in rural areas, will continue through ongoing programs in the mainstream health system. In addition, there are many programs undertaken by General Practitioners and NGOs.