

COUNTRY HOSPITALS, DOWNSIZING OR CLOSURE

**323. Mr AINSWORTH to the Minister for Health:**

In view of the recently announced state budget surplus, can the minister confirm that there will be no downsizing or closures of country hospitals?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I am a little bemused, because the questions I am asked are based on pure speculation. No budget announcement has yet been made. Members should not ask these questions until 13 September, as is the usual protocol of this House.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the House to order.