

**DISTRICT HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS**

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MR R.C. KUCERA** (Yokine - Minister for Health) [9.18 am]: I am pleased to announce today that more than 140 country residents have been chosen to represent their communities on newly created district health advisory councils. In your own area, Mr Speaker, there is a very vibrant group. The establishment of 13 advisory councils across the State will give country people genuine input to health planning and decision making. The councils will enable community members to have input and advocacy without the onerous legal and financial responsibilities associated with the previous health service boards. Members have been drawn from local communities, consumers, agency providers and health services. Close to 200 nominations were received, which clearly demonstrates how strongly country residents feel about their health services.

The establishment of a single, unified health system with strong community input is one of the many reforms the Gallop Government has introduced to help fix the health system. Health advisory councils have been established in the south east goldfields, Pilbara, Gascoyne, great southern, mid west, Murchison and wheatbelt health regions. All members will be contacted by their relevant health services within a week to organise the first meetings and key roles.

Similar advisory council selection processes are being undertaken in the Peel area and the Kimberley health region, and it is anticipated that the announcement about the Peel district health advisory council and the request for nominations to the Kimberley district health advisory council will occur in July.