

REGIONAL HOSPITALS, FUNDING

697. Mr Masters to the Minister for Health

- (1) I refer to the statement made by the Vasse ALP candidate that 'regional hospitals would receive a greater share of the health budget' and ask does the Minister intend to honour this commitment?
- (2) If yes, when will this extra share of health budget funding be announced?
- (3) If yes, how will it be spent at regional hospitals, including the Busselton regional Hospital?
- (4) In particular, will funding be provided to start the planning process for a new hospital and a centre to replace the outdated Kevin Cullen Community Health Centre?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The budget will be presented to Parliament on 13 September 2001 and funding information released from this date.
- (3) The funding allocation to regional hospitals will support the provision of inpatient and community based clinical services.
- (4) The Government is currently reviewing the Department of Health's Capital Works Program for 2001/02, which will be announced in the budget on 13 September 2001.

In reviewing the program, priority will be given to election commitments, followed by other areas of need, having regard to the population to be serviced, the services to be provided and the condition of existing assets.