

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING PREFERENCES

1144. Mr Masters to the Minister for Health

- (1) In addition to the broad ranging State Government policies which allow government agencies to favour regional suppliers of goods and services over Perth-based suppliers (eg an ability to accept tenders from regional suppliers that are up to 10 per cent higher than Perth-based tenderers), do the agencies for which the minister is responsible have their own, additional policies or directives on regional buying preferences?
- (2) Do the government agencies for which the minister is responsible have 'buy local' policies or programs so that, where reasonable and practical, preference is given to the use of local suppliers of goods or services rather than restricting or preferencing metropolitan suppliers?
- (3) Do the government agencies for which the minister is responsible assess logistical implications and difficulties associated with the provision of goods or services by suppliers located in towns that are remote from the areas in which the goods or services are to be used when choosing successful tenderers?
- (4) Do the government agencies for which the minister is responsible routinely request local suppliers of goods and services to submit tenders when new or renewing contracts are being let?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Western Australian public health units conduct their purchasing activities in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the State Government, including the buy local policy.
- (3) Health units recognise the many advantages of purchasing locally and strive to satisfy their needs through local businesses wherever possible and to also identify further opportunities for local buying.
- (4) Logistical implications are an important consideration in determining best value for money outcomes in the procurement of goods and services required by health units. Such issues are taken into consideration in the bid evaluation process in accordance with Government supply policy.
- (5) All health public tender invitations are advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper and on the Government Contracting Information Bulletin Board and Government Health Supply Council internet sites. In addition, where public tenders are called for the specific requirements of rural health units the invitations are routinely advertised in relevant local/regional newspapers.

Office of Health Review

- (1) No.
- (2) The Office of Health Review follows CAM's common user contract panel and State Supply Commission's purchasing guidelines and tender process.
- (3) Not applicable as the Office of Health Review's location is in Perth.
- (4) As in accordance with the State Supply Commission and CAM's tender process and guidelines, the Office of Health Review advertises contract tenders for any contracts in excess of \$5 000.

Healthway

- (1) Healthway has implemented the purchasing policies provided by the State Supply Commission.
- (2)-(4) Yes.