

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

310. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:

The Minister for Health, in Labor's better regional health policy, pledged more support for regional hospitals and health services.

Can the minister confirm that at a recent budget briefing for rural health services, the Department of Health advised that \$25 million would be slashed from rural health services in Western Australia to pay for some of Labor's metropolitan health promises?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for Murdoch for his question, but he obviously did not listen to the answer I gave yesterday about the press release by the federal member from the south west, Geoff Prosser. Any speculation on the budget is merely that - speculation. The health budget will not be cut, but it will be reconfigured to place emphasis on patient care and to put services where they should be - in front-line health services. It is interesting to note that the National Party raised a similar issue this morning with the same kind of scaremongering. This House follows a protocol on the budget. Anything said before September 13 is mere speculation.