

REGIONAL AND RURAL HEALTH SERVICES, FUNDING

53. Mr AINSWORTH to the Minister for Health:

Will the minister inform the House -

- (1) Why the Health Department has cut agreed operating budgets for some regional and rural health services for May and June 2001?
- (2) The name and base locations of all regional or rural health services affected by this directive?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) There have been no regional health -

Several members interjected.

Mr KUCERA: Mr Speaker, I think somebody is knocking on the door again!

No regional cuts have been made to rural health. In fact, the Government has asked the rural health services to apply a degree of rigour in accountability that I have said previously was lacking in the past eight years.