

WHEATBELT COMMUNITY DRUG SERVICE TEAM

619. Mr M.W. TRENORDEN to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the highly successful and popular wheatbelt community drug service team.

- (1) What is the total level of state government funding for 2002-03 that has been made available to support the administration, programs and activities of this team?
- (2) Will the minister guarantee that this level of state government funding will continue to be made available to the wheatbelt community drug service team to support its very positive initiatives to address the problems surrounding teenage drug use?
- (3) Will the minister guarantee that visits by the wheatbelt community drug service team to schools in the wheatbelt region will continue?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this important question.

- (1) The total amount is \$77 136.
- (2) The State Government's funding will continue to be provided to the wheatbelt community drug service team for the provision of drug and alcohol treatment, prevention and community development services to adults and youths.
- (3) In working with schools, the primary role of the wheatbelt community drug service team is to engage high-risk young people in counselling and support services, and to provide assistance and support to schools as appropriate. These services will continue to be provided.

Mr M.W. Trenorden: Is that to schools?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The services will continue to be provided. The school drug education project - SDEP - is funded through the Western Australian Government as part of the Western Australian drug and alcohol abuse strategy, involving parents and community participation, to ensure effective school drug education in all WA schools by providing curriculum support materials, professional development materials and the development of a school drug policy.