

COUNTRY HOSPITALS, AGENCY NURSES

526. Mr WALDRON to the Minister for Health:

The second part of my question asked whether the minister will instruct the Department of Health to budget up front for the use of agency nurses?

Mr KUCERA replied:

The difficulty with agency nurses is that if we stop using them and they are not funded, there will be no agency nurses. The funds are there for full-time equivalents generally. That takes into account the agency nurses as well.