

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INVESTIGATION INTO ANNUAL REPORTING PROCEDURES

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

Given the Department of Health's history of late and substandard reporting to the Auditor General and his publicly stated opinion on the department's inability to meet performance audits, I ask -

- (1) Has the minister initiated a thorough and extensive internal audit or investigation into his department's annual reporting procedures and personnel to ascertain the causes of his department's failed reporting program?
- (2) What was the nature and scope of that investigation?
- (3) Was it conducted by health department staff or outside consultants?
- (4) What was the total cost of bringing the Department of Health up to speed on producing its report this year?
- (5) Can the minister guarantee that the report will be on time next year?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I remind the member for Avon that much of the comment made by the Auditor General relates to the period that his party was part of the coalition Government in this State.

- (1)-(5) Of course we are examining all those issues raised by the Auditor General. The question in itself is a little ridiculous. I also remind the member for Avon that we have instigated a total review of health services to ensure that a new structure is in place for a unified system, which is an historic approach in this country. A review group has been implemented, chaired by Professor Mick Reid, who was brought over from New South Wales, assisted by the Under Treasurer and the head of the Department of Health.

Now that we have the structure of one unified system in this State, I expect us to have a vision that will support all the people in this State. We can pick out individual things that are done specifically by the Auditor General to make sure the procedures are strengthened. I am pleased that this Government looks at matters from a positive perspective. It does not take the negative direction that it could take.

I listen to the member for Murdoch continually. I do use very base examples, such as our crows at Rottnest. However, I will quote from one of my gurus.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The great Bard himself said -

O, beware, my lord, of jealousy!
It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
The meat it feeds on.