

NURSE PRACTITIONER LEGISLATION

**455. Mr D'ORAZIO to the Minister for Health**

Can the minister update the House on any progress that has been made to introduce nurse practitioner legislation in Western Australia?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I thank the member for Ballajura for his question. Last weekend I was pleased to announce the Government's intention to progress legislation on nurse practitioners. The senior nurses who attended that announcement supported it. I also thank the Leader of the National Party for his support of this issue, because he, more than anyone, knows the importance of this piece of legislation, which will allow nurses, particularly those in rural areas, to assist with providing first-class health care. Unlike some of the comments that were reported in the newspaper earlier this week, this legislation is not about second-class doctoring; it is about first-class nursing and first-class nursing care. It is a very important piece of legislation and I expect the other side of the House to support it in a bipartisan way.