

SWAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL

266. Mr AINSWORTH to the Minister for Health:

Given that the minister provided a \$20 million bailout to major Perth hospitals in June of this year -

- (1) Why will he not guarantee to keep the Swan District Hospital open to fully meet the health needs of the many country people who rely on the hospital?
- (2) How does the minister's decision fit with the Government's one vote, one value argument that country people need more services, not political representation?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) Obviously the member for Roe did not listen to any of my answers. This is not about funding. This is about the availability of general practitioners, specialists and consultants - all of the issues that the doctors insisted that the Government back off from in hospitals. At times it is difficult to hear in this Chamber, but the member for Roe should listen to what I am saying. This is not about funding. At the moment we are negotiating with different organisations within the health services sector to get health professionals into regional areas. However, when the member reads in *Hansard* the statement I just made, and if he listens to what I am saying, this is not about funding and bailouts; it is about the way in which we can organise, structure and reform health services.