

DENTAL HEALTH, MR RON ANDREWS

312. Mr A.D. Marshall to the Minister for Health

- (1) Is the Minister aware that constituent Ron Andrews has been waiting to have his bottom teeth replaced by a plate since October 2001 and that this delay has caused inconvenience and ill health?
- (2) What does the Minister intend to do to assist Mr Andrews?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

1. Yes.
2. The situation was investigated to ascertain whether Mr Andrews' surgery could be done at an alternative location. It was determined that due to the specific medical risks of his condition it is appropriate for this to be done at the high risk dental clinic at RPH.

A proposal was put to Mr Andrews for him to consider having the surgery performed under a local anaesthetic. The advice to Mr Andrews was that it was the dentist's opinion that this should not be considered as the best option as the procedure would be very unpleasant.

As an interim measure, it was suggested Mr Andrews return to his dentist and have his existing denture remodelled to accommodate the Taurus growth while waiting for surgery. It was also suggested Mr Andrews' GP write to RPH to have his priority for surgery reassessed.

Efforts are continuing to schedule surgery for Mr Andrews as soon as can be arranged.