

ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT HEALTH SERVICE, MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

**481. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Health:**

Will the minister advise the House how the new mental health facility at the Armadale-Kelmscott Health Service will benefit Perth's south-eastern suburbs?

**Hon PETER FOSS replied:**

I am pleased that Hon Derrick Tomlinson raised this matter, as I attended the opening of that magnificent facility last Saturday. I was impressed by the services provided. As a former Minister for Health who took over when there was no provision outside older-style hospitals, it is a gratifying change. Hon Derrick Tomlinson should also be gratified as he chaired the committee, whose recommendations resulted in the changes. During the course of the speeches made by the professional staff of the hospital, the work of the committee and of the Government was commended.

In 1996-97, at any one time there were, on average, 32 adults from Armadale, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and the southern part of Gosnells in hospital each day with a serious mental illness. Twenty-two of these people were in approved mental health beds in the public hospital system. The people were in hospitals at Bentley, Graylands and Fremantle. As a consequence, the 1997 decision by the Government to redevelop the Armadale health service included a 25-bed mental health acute in-patient unit for adults. The new facility has beds for 25 people, and is designed to care for four to six people who require special high dependency care. Through the facility, the Armadale-Kelmscott Health Service will provide short-term in-patient treatment for people with serious mental illness. People will be admitted to the unit only if effective treatment can no longer be provided to them in the community. That point was carefully made. There needs to be a clear link to community support in order to reduce the amount of time people spend in hospital.

To further complement the new in-patient unit, planning is under way to commence an additional community-based outpatient clinic for adults in the Maddington area. It will be operational this financial year. The unit is a component part of a comprehensive mental health service development in this area and covers both community-based and in-patient treatment. The most obvious benefit of the new unit is that it will enable people who have a serious mental illness to receive in-patient care closer to home. Family and friends, who are an important part of the ongoing care and support for people with serious mental illness, will be able to liaise with the clinicians and continue their support throughout the in-patient stay.

*Point of Order*

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Hon Derrick Tomlinson read from a document that he identified as a question of which he had given notice to the Minister for Health.

The PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Opposition should have raised this at the time Hon Derrick Tomlinson was reading it. The Leader of the Opposition cannot retrospectively ask to see someone's document.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: He identified the document. I ask him to table the document.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I read a question of which I had given notice to the Attorney General, through the Minister for Health.

*Ruling by the President*

The PRESIDENT: This is an interesting point. Standing Order No 48(a) states -

- (a) A document quoted from by a Member not a Minister shall,
  - (i) at the time such quotation is made be identified; and
  - (ii) on request from any Member, immediately upon the conclusion of the speech of the Member who has quoted therefrom, be tabled.
- (b) Documents tabled by a Member in accordance with this standing order shall be returned to that Member after the expiration of 72 hours.

The question is whether the request was made immediately upon conclusion of the speech. I say that it was not. However, that just allows the standing orders to be interpreted that way. There seems to be some special reason in the mind of at least the Leader of the Opposition that it should be tabled. My understanding is that Hon Derrick Tomlinson is quite happy to table the document, not because of the request under Standing Order No 48, but because, I assume, he seeks to be cooperative. Is that correct?

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Indubitably correct.

The PRESIDENT: For the information of members, I advise that the document appears to be a question with an answer attached. That is something I have seen in this House for more than a decade.

[See paper No 529.]

*Questions Without Notice Resumed*