

DENTAL SERVICES, PROGRAMS IN NORTH WEST

489. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Health

I refer to the recent announcement that the State Government has given a \$45million commitment to improved dental services, and ask: -

- (a) how much of the proposed \$45million is to be spent on programs in the North West of the State;
- (b) in which towns and communities will the funds be spent;
- (c) who will be responsible for administering the funds; and
- (d) when will the programs commence operation in each town referred to above?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

The Government has committed over \$50 million to the provision of outpatient dental services in 2002-03 for the financially and geographically disadvantaged and to school children. Services provided include general services, specialist services and school dental services. In rural areas, general dental services are provided through fixed Government funded clinics, through visiting and itinerant services, and through private dental practitioners who participate in the Country Patients Dental Subsidy Scheme (CPDSS).

School dental services are provided through fixed clinics and mobile services.

Specialist services are provided through private specialist practitioners who participate in the Orthodontic Patients Subsidy Scheme.

- (a) Approximately \$3 million is invested in oral health services in the North West of the State.
- (b) Towns in the North West receiving dental services from Dental Health Service clinics:

Derby
Fitzroy Crossing
Halls Creek
Port Hedland
Newman
Exmouth

Towns that receive visiting services:

Onslow
Denham
Useless Loop

Communities who receive itinerant services in the Kimberley:

Looma
Kalumburu
Oombulgurri
Bidyadanga
One Arm Point
Beagle Bay
Lombadina
Gibb River
Mt Barnett
Noonkanbah
Xmas Creek
Yakanara
Gogo
Kadjina
Muludja
Cherrabun
Balgo
Warmun
Yiyili
Kundat Djaru
Mandangala

Communities who receive itinerant services in the Pilbara:

Marble Bar
Nullagine
Yandeyarra
Warralong
Brockman
Strelley
Woodstock
Jigalong
Punmu
Cotton Creek

Towns in the North West in which private dental practitioners participate in the CPDSS:

Broome
Karratha
Kununurra
Carnarvon

Government funded dental services provided at Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) sites:

Carnarvon

A further service is to be established in Roebourne in early 2003 for clients of the AMS in the town.

Specialist Services:

Government subsidised specialist orthodontic services are provided to eligible patients in Karratha, Broome, Kununurra, Newman, Paraburdoo/Tom Price and South Hedland.

The provision of specialist oral surgery has been piloted in Carnarvon and will be continued dependent on demand for services.

School Dental Services:

These are provided to all school children from pre-school to year 11 (and year 12 in some remote locations) in the North West of the State.

Other Services:

The Department of Health has also initiated oral health promotion and oral health education programs in various towns in the North West through the Centre for Rural and Remote Oral Health at the University of Western Australia.

- (c) The Department of Health manages the Government's Oral Health Program.
- (d) The programs are ongoing.