135. Hon GEORGE CASH to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

(1) How many resident medical practitioners are stationed at Wyndham District Hospital?

(2) Given the increase in port activity and the commencement of the Sally Malay mine, is it intended to seek more resident medical practitioners to be stationed at Wyndham District Hospital; and, if not, why not?

(3) Is there any substance in the suggestion that a contract for a resident medical practitioner stationed at Wyndham District Hospital will not be renewed when it expires in April 2004?

(4) Has a submission been made to the Department of Health by a medical practitioner who was until recently stationed at Kununurra that only one resident medical practitioner is needed to adequately handle the medical requirements at Wyndham District Hospital?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question and for his interest in matters surrounding Wyndham District Hospital.

(1) There are two full-time resident medical practitioners at Wyndham District Hospital.

(2) The developments referred to will not generate a requirement for additional medical practitioners at Wyndham District Hospital. Activity from the Sally Malay mine will be referred to either Kununurra or Halls Creek District Hospitals rather than Wyndham District Hospital. Halls Creek District Hospital is only 80 kilometres from the Sally Malay mine, whereas Wyndham District Hospital is 240 kilometres away. Kununurra District Hospital provides a higher level of clinical services and is the referral hospital for the east Kimberley.

(3) No. The medical practitioner will be offered another contract.

(4) Yes. Kimberley health region management did receive correspondence from the Kununurra and Wyndham Health Services’ senior medical officer outlining concerns about the clinical procedure cover at Kununurra District Hospital. A possible solution to integrate Wyndham doctors into the Kununurra procedural roster was explored. The region has addressed and resolved the issue by alternative means. The two doctor positions in Wyndham will remain.