

**Division 8: WA Health —**

**[Supplementary Information No A23.]**

*Question:* Mr M.P. Whitely requested the cost per weighted episode of service and the expected global caseload increase.

*Answer:* The Minister undertook to provide details of the increase in public hospital weighted activity in 2012/13 and the cost per weighted episode.

These matters are being finalised in the 2012/13 budget allocation process. The Minister will write to the Member for Bassendean with the relevant details once this process has been finalised.

**[Supplementary Information No A24.]**

*Question:* Mr R.H. Cook requested the current and forward estimate levels of research funding, including the base figure that covers WAIMR.

*Answer:* Specific grants and allocations supporting medical research are attached. Additional to this, general support for research effort is provided as part of the employment arrangement for medical staff.

In 2011-12 the Department of Health has allocated a total of \$16,520,617 for medical research.

In 2012-13 it is estimated that this will be \$17,951,266.

Forward estimates for out years are presented in the accompanying Table.

<b>Department of Health Funding Levels for Health and Medical Research</b>						
<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>Projected 2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
<b>Medical &amp; Health Research Infrastructure Fund</b>	A competitive funding program which provides infrastructure support to WA researchers (forward estimates assume 3% indexation)	5,459,955	5,623,754	5,792,466	5,966,240	6,145,227
<b>State Health Research Advisory Council-DoH Research Translation Projects</b>	A competitive funding program focusing on efficiencies and cost savings that research can deliver to WA Health (forward estimates assume 3% indexation)	2,155,000	2,219,650	2,286,240	2,354,827	2,425,471
<b>Targeted Research Fund</b>	A competitive funding program for research that impacts directly on the activities of WA Health (total \$5.2m allocated over 3 yrs)	1,862,000	1,669,000	1,669,000	TBD	TBD
<b>Research Commissioned by the DoH</b>	- Muscular Dystrophy clinical trial	223,662	318,862			
	- Testosterone treatment in Alzheimer's disease	250,000	250,000			
<b>Research Institute Support</b>						
<b>Western Australian Institute for Medical Research</b>	Contract for the provision of research services in adult health	1,600,000	1,600,000	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Telethon Institute for Child Health Research</b>	- Contract for the provision of research in maternal, child and youth health, in conjunction with the WA Health Networks	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	TBD	TBD
	- Developmental Pathways Project - Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, coordinated by TICHR. WA Government agencies contributing \$300,000 pa, of which the DoH component is \$130,000 pa	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	
<b>New Independent Researcher Infrastructure Support</b>	A competitive peer-reviewed funding program to provide infrastructure support to outstanding new independent researchers	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000

**Extract from Hansard**  
 [ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 31 May 2012]  
 p634b-636a  
 Mr Martin Whitely; Mr Roger Cook

<b>Department of Health Funding Levels for Health and Medical Research</b>						
<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>Projected 2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
<b>Medical Research Commercialisation Fund</b>	A pre-seed investment fund directed towards early stage development and commercialisation opportunities. In 2011/12 the DoH contributed \$300,000 for membership over a 4 year period until 2014/15	300,000				TBD
<b>Research Initiatives - as per MFH announcement on 15 June 2011 of additional \$8 million over 3 years for HMR</b>	- DoH - Raine Foundation Clinician-Research Fellowships. A competitive peer-reviewed funding program to support early- to mid-career WA Health clinician researchers  - Research Governance framework for WA Health  - Other initiatives and forward allocations under consideration	305,000  46,000  2,649,000	600,000  262,000  2,138,000	595,000  90,000  1,315,000	300,000  90,000	TBD  90,000
<b>Cancer &amp; Palliative Care Research &amp; Evaluation Unit</b>	A joint initiative funded by the DoH, between all WA universities and administered through the UWA	100,000	TBD			
<b>Neurotrauma Research Program</b>	Program for research into treatment and repair of brain and spinal cord injuries. Funds sourced from The Road Trauma Trust Account and administered by DoH		1,700,000	1,800,000	TBD	TBD
<b>National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases</b>	Based at the QEII Medical Centre and WAIMR, undertakes research on potential new therapies for Mesothelioma	200,000	200,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
<b>Improving Rural Cancer Outcomes</b>	NHMRC Partnership Project, led by the UWA School of Population Health	60,000	60,000	60,000		
<b>Wounds Management</b>	Wounds West and UWA participation in a Cooperative Research Centre	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000

**[Supplementary Information No A25.]**

*Question:* Mr R.H. Cook asked: Can the minister please provide a breakdown for each of the home-based hospital programs; has the FINE program undergone an evaluation given it is now in its fourth year of operation; what is the term of the current contract with Silver Chain; will the contract renewal be subject to a competitive tender; and what is the difference between Hospital in the Home and FINE?

*Answer:* An independent evaluation of the Friend In Need – Emergency (FINE) funded Silver Chain Home Hospital commenced in March 2012 and effectiveness of the service and value for money are specifically identified as key considerations of the evaluation. A final evaluation report is scheduled for completion by September 2012.

The contract with Silver Chain in relation to providing Home Hospital services is to 30 June 2012. The intention is to extend service provision of Silver Chain Home Hospital services into 2012/13 having regard to government purchasing process and information and recommendations from the independent evaluation that is underway.

Silver Chain's Hospital At The Home (HATH) is one of four service types provided through the FINE funded Silver Chain Home Hospital. Other programs include Post Acute Care (PAC), Community Nursing (CN) and a Priority Response Assessment (PRA) service.

Hospital In The Home (HITH) is defined as the provision of care to hospital admitted patients in their place of residence as a substitute for hospital accommodation. The place of residence may be temporary or permanent. HITH care may be for the entire admission or for part of an admission. Key defining criteria include that, if HITH care was not available, the patient would be accommodated in hospital. (National Health Data Dictionary, and Department of Health Operational Circular 78/0 1 January 2006)

Silver Chain HATH is defined as a HITH service under the above definition, and there is no difference between the Area Health Service managed HITH services and Silver Chain Home Hospital – HATH services by the definition. There are operational differences, one of which is that the medical governance for patients under HATH is by Silver Chain credentialed GPs and medical governance for Area Health Service (AHS) managed HITH is by public hospital Medical officers. A second difference is that patients who clinically need to attend hospital frequently (planned) for treatments, are more likely to be retained by the AHS managed HITH programs.

A direct comparison of day of care costs between Area Health Service HITH and Silver Chain HATH is not available, and would require analysis of patient complexity, variations in operational models, length of stay, and the allocation of overhead expenditures for the service.