

HOSPITAL MEALS — DESSERT POLICY

7584. Dr A.D. Buti to the Minister for Health

- (1) Has the serving of desserts with the patient's meals been abolished at the Armadale–Kelmscott Memorial Hospital, and if yes:
 - (a) when was this decision actioned;
 - (b) are both public and private patients denied desserts; and
 - (c) was the reason for the decision a cost cutting measure, and if yes how much money will be saved on an annual basis?
- (2) Is the catering services at the Armadale–Kelmscott Memorial Hospital performed in-house or has it been contracted out, and if contracted out what is the name of the company?
- (3) Have any other public hospitals in Western Australia, removed the provision of desserts to their patients, and if yes how much money will be saved annually?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes. The desserts have been removed from the lunch menu. Desserts are still being served with the evening meal.
 - (a) Saturday, 17 March 2012.
 - (b) Yes.
 - (c) No. The reason for the decision was not cost cutting. The redesigned menu ensures standardisation of menu choices for all patients. A reduction in food waste is expected, with savings estimated at around \$20,000 per annum.
- (2) Armadale Health Service catering is performed in-house.
- (3) No.