

SOUTH WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE, HEALTH FORUM

Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [12.53 pm]: I express my concerns about plans by the Department of Health through the South West Area Health Service to conduct a community health forum in Busselton on 15 and 16 September. It is proposed to invite 100 participants to the forum, who will be chosen from a random selection process using the Forrest electoral roll. I would think that, if there were to be a forum on health, it should involve people who know something about how the health system is running rather than people who probably have very little knowledge. If something positive is to be gained from the forum, people attending should know something about health. It appears to be a snow job by the South West Area Health Service to pretend to involve people in some kind of a forum when, in actual fact, it should be calling on all people who have experience in the health service in order to seek their advice and expert opinion. There is deep concern among people in the south west that health services are being diminished in that area. The manager of the South West Area Health Service currently responds directly to the minister, and we in the south west are not getting the health service that we deserve.