

GREEN HEAD, TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS

Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to a letter the minister received on 30 May 2003 from the chairperson of the Central Coast Health Advisory Group advising that terminally ill patients at Green Head have limited access to palliative care services. Will the minister provide volunteer palliative carers with access to voluntary insurance cover so that they can provide a much-needed service to the terminally ill patients in Green Head?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The minister recalls the letter sent to him by the chairman of the Central Coast Health Advisory Group. In his reply to the chairperson, which has been posted, the minister provided advice about the issue of volunteer insurance. Volunteers providing sanctioned services for a public health provider are covered by that provider's liability insurance. I understand that the volunteer group in question provides respite services to health service-referred clients and does not provide services independently of those referrals. In those circumstances, the group's volunteers are covered by the health service provider and separate coverage is not necessary.