

GERALDTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL, SERVICE DELIVERY DISPUTE

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

I refer to the protracted dispute between the Western Australian Department of Health and Geraldton doctors over the delivery of services to the Geraldton Regional Hospital.

- (1) Under the proposed new structure, will Geraldton doctors still be able to provide ongoing care and treatment of their patients in the Geraldton Regional Hospital and under what conditions?
- (2) Can the minister guarantee that the people of Geraldton will continue to have 24-hour access, seven days a week, to quality obstetric and anaesthetic services and accident and emergency services?
- (3) Will the minister give an assurance that the proposed new structure will not impact on the viability of the Geraldton node of the Rural Clinical School?
- (4) Has the Department of Health evaluated whether the proposed model will impact adversely on the procedural skills acquired by rural and remote practitioners in Geraldton?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The revised model for medical care at the hospital, which was circulated to all Geraldton doctors on 26 March 2004, will give those doctors interested in continuing to work at the hospital the opportunity to do so. However, the employment of salaried doctors is expected to alter the extent of involvement of the Geraldton doctors, particularly with inpatient care. A number of doctors have independently commenced detailed discussions with regional management on their involvement with the Geraldton Regional Hospital.
- (2)-(3) Yes.
- (4) Yes, the model takes this into account.