

**SOUTH WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE, FUNDING**

*Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood*

**MR P.D. OMODEI** (Warren-Blackwood) [12.56 pm]: I wish to express my concerns about funding for the South West Area Health Service and to respond to the comments of the Minister for the South West who claimed that I was spreading misinformation. There is a \$3.6 million shortfall in the budget for the South West Area Health Service. The strategy to avoid that situation is to reduce the full-time equivalent staff by 75 over a full year. The table of cuts to FTEs in my electorate of Warren-Blackwood indicates that Augusta will lose six FTEs, Bridgetown will lose three, Manjimup will lose five, Nannup will lose two and Pemberton will lose one. Added to that is a range of budget risks in relation to the \$3.6 million budget shortfall. The original assessment of the budget risks did not include the additional costs of the RiskCover increase, the visiting medical practitioner, superannuation, the South West 24 service, Internet usage charges, the Clinical Information Access Online service, the lease agreement for the Bunbury Tower, the leap year, the motor vehicle insurance trust claim and legal settlement, which totals an extra \$2.993 million. The situation is critical in the south west. A reduction of 40 FTEs is being considered in the Bunbury and Busselton areas alone. It is a matter of real concern. We are seeing the continued erosion of the health service in the south west area, which is of great concern to me as the member for Warren-Blackwood.