

PARKINSON'S NURSE SPECIALISTS, FUNDING

1628. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to speculation that the minister proposes to cut funding to the State's only two Parkinson's nurse specialists, despite the fact that Parkinson's disease is the second largest neurological disorder after Alzheimer's disease, and ask -

- (1) How many Parkinson's disease sufferers did the two Parkinson's nurse specialists attend to in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many of these people lived outside the Perth metropolitan area?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the nurse specialists are the only specialist services available to Parkinson's disease sufferers in many parts of regional Western Australia because neurologists do not visit many country areas?
- (4) In the absence of the two Parkinson's nurse specialists, what alternative neurological service will the minister offer to people living in regional WA?
- (5) Given the heavy reliance on the two Parkinson's nurse specialists around the State, will the minister commit to retain their services?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(5) The Minister for Health does not respond to idle speculation.