

GERALDTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL, GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AGREEMENT

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

- (1) How many doctors and specialists are being flown into Geraldton to alleviate the crisis due to the lack of agreement with local general practitioners servicing patients at Geraldton Regional Hospital?
- (2) How can this be cost neutral?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Since 1 March 2004, when most of the general practitioners withdrew their services from the Geraldton Regional Hospital, six doctors have been flown in to provide anaesthetic, obstetric and inpatient cover. The arrangement ensures that satisfactory services are being provided to the Geraldton community.
- (2) The interim arrangements are based on fees paid under the standard agreement of salaried medical officers. It is anticipated that these arrangements will be cost neutral across the full range of medical services.