

COUNTRY HOSPITALS, GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH EXPENDITURE

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

Given the government's \$890 million investment in health, of which just \$58.8 million, or 6.5 per cent, will go to country Western Australia, specifically to four major regional hospitals, will the minister -

- (1) Explain how small country hospitals, such as those in Bruce Rock, Merredin and Narrogin, will benefit from this unprecedented investment in health?
- (2) Explain why, given the government's economic windfall, the minister has still failed to commit to fund or boost funding to key programs of benefit to country people such as -
 - (a) the mobile blood collection facility;
 - (b) the Kojonup Women's Wellness Clinic;
 - (c) Lifeline;
 - (d) the St John Ambulance Association;
 - (e) the Silver Chain health service; and
 - (f) men's health programs?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) The historic announcement of an additional \$890 million investment in our public health system from the booming Western Australian economy was to implement the clinical services framework. The major rural dimension of that reform program was the rebuilding and upgrading of health care facilities in the six major regional cities of Broome, \$42 million; Port Hedland, \$90 million; Geraldton, \$49 million; Kalgoorlie, \$40 million; Bunbury, \$18.25 million; and Albany \$26.8 million to regional resource centre status. An additional \$58.8 million has been promised in this announcement. Other requests for additional funding outside the clinical services framework will be dealt with on their merits along with all other competing claims.