

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONAL PLAN 2006-2007

2362. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Health

Can the Minister report on the attainment or otherwise of each Key Result Area (KRA) of the Western Australian Operational Plan 2006-2007, including -

- (a) a breakdown of each KRA;
- (b) each subset of the KRAs; and
- (c) whether the target was met?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

(a)-(c) See attachment 1. [See paper 3018.]

The attached table shows that the Government has an ambitious work program to improve health system performance. Significant progress has been achieved in most key result areas.

The Government is undertaking a huge investment in infrastructure to upgrade health facilities so the system will have the capacity to deal better with patient needs into the future.

There remain shortages of skilled staff in many areas, and Western Australia is competing at a national and international level to recruit appropriately qualified staff to work in our hospitals and health services. At the same time, the Government is pursuing a range of initiatives to make public hospitals and the health system a more attractive place for good people to work.

The upgrading of facilities and staff recruitment, coupled with service level reforms, is enabling us to deal with patient needs more quickly with safe and high quality services.

A few key results I wish to highlight are:

- At the end of May 2007, the total number of patients on the elective surgery waitlists decreased by 21.2% (or 4,353 patients) compared to the same time last year. This figure is a significant improvement on six years ago when around 20,000 patients were waiting for elective surgery.
- At the end of May 2007 compared to the end of May 2006, the total median waiting time for patients on the elective surgery wait list decreased by 23.1% (0.85 months). In February 2001 the median waiting time on the list was about five months.
- In May 2007, 4,186 Hospital In The Home beddays were used in the metropolitan area (average of 135 per day), which is the highest since July 2005 (note: this is metro only and does not include activity undertaken at Joondalup Health Campus and Swan District Hospital which are managed by Silver Chain and not captured within a central database).
- Statewide, a record 975 Ambulatory Surgery Initiative cases were completed in the month of May 2007. This represents significant effort by sites to sustain steady growth.
- A total of 4,083 clients used General Practice After Hours Clinics in the month of May 2007. This pushed the year to date figure to exceed the 40,000 target a month early (the YTD year to date May 2006/07 figure was 42,575).

There are some areas where the Government has set ambitious targets, with full results close to achievement.

For example, the Government set a target to clear all cases where people had been waiting for elective surgery for greater than 500 days by 31 December 2006. Although the number who have been waiting over 500 days has been reduced significantly, the target has not yet been achieved. At the end of May 2007 there was a statewide total of 222 people waiting over 500 days, an 87% reduction compared to 1,729 people at the same time last year. It is expected that the target for this indicator will be met in November 2007.

The Government is absolutely determined to build on the progress it has made in health and will continue to pursue ambitious targets to improve health services.