

GERALDTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL, ANAESTHETIC AND OBSTETRIC SERVICES

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

Considering the breakdown of negotiations at the Geraldton Regional Hospital between some doctors and the Western Australian Country Health Service, will the minister assure the residents of Geraldton that -

- (1) Anaesthetic services will be guaranteed; and
- (2) obstetric services will continue to be available locally with sufficient doctors and midwives if emergencies arise?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) There has been no cancellation of elective surgical lists at Geraldton Regional Hospital. Elective anaesthetic services are being supported by a core of four local general practitioners, together with visiting services for some specialist lists. Emergency coverage remains in place. Further arrangements are being negotiated to ensure that coverage continues.
- (2) Obstetric services will continue with the cooperation of a local general practitioner and two visiting specialists. Midwives are also available at all times.