

HOSPITALS, SOUTH WEST HEALTH SERVICE AND WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE, BUDGETS

702. Hon Murray Criddle to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

Will the Minister please table a copy of each Hospital's estimated budget for 2002-03, for each individual hospital cost centre in the South-West Health Service and Western Australian Country Health Service?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

Initial 2002-03 gross expenditure budget for WA Country Health Service is \$392M.

Initial 2002-03 gross expenditure budget for South West Health Service is \$100M.

Since the recommendations of the Health Administrative Review Committee (HARC) Report were implemented, the structure of governance and administration established for metropolitan and country area health services in WA now determines the levels for budget allocation and reporting. For the South West Health Service and the WA Country Health Service, budgets are allocated and reported at the whole of health service level.

The area health services are responsible for service and business plans and operations management, and as such, they have significant flexibility to manage the allocations and reporting within the area health service as it best supports their service and business plans. They are not required to allocate or report on mutually exclusive budget allocations to individual health care units or cost centres operating within their areas of responsibility.

As the services within each region are being operated as a 'single system of service delivery', the budget allocations to individual health service units or cost centres are not an appropriate measure of available resources for health care in each community. As budgets are not allocated to or reported at these levels since the new structures were put in place, it is not possible to provide the level of information requested by the Member.