

HARVEY AND YARLOOP HOSPITALS

**402. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Health:**

Concerns have been expressed about the future of the hospitals at Harvey and Yarloop. Can the minister update the House on what plans are in store for these two regional hospitals?

**Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:**

Last month, accompanied by the members for Murray-Wellington and Collie, I visited the Harvey District Hospital where I met the staff and patients. I was very impressed with the way it presented as a very good community hospital. One of the areas that particularly interested me at the Harvey hospital was the operating theatre. Currently, two theatre sessions are held per month. Visiting surgeons perform low-level surgery, endoscopy work, carpal tunnel repairs and non-invasive surgery. The staff at the hospital relayed to us that there is a significant potential to increase this activity, particularly day surgery. In order to meet contemporary standards, the physical structure of the operating theatre and its environment require upgrading. The theatre at the Harvey hospital will be upgraded. That is the best indication we can give to the people of Harvey of the Government's regard for their hospital and its importance in the overall system. Work to be carried out includes refurbishment of and making good the operating floor and wall areas to address rising damp, peeling paintwork and cracks in the ceilings; refurbishment of the recovery area floor and wall areas; changes to the door access to improve patient flow in the recovery area; new shelving and improvements to the sterile store area; and modifications to the air filtration and air conditioner systems. Staff from the Department of Health are in Harvey this week to draw up more precise specifications for the operating theatre upgrade.

The member for Collie and I unexpectedly called into the Yarloop District Hospital one evening and were shown around by the staff. Last year, the Department of Health conducted an assessment of the fire safety levels at the hospital. The consequent report recommended improvements to the fire alarm and suppression systems within the hospital and the installation of fire sprinklers in the patient areas. In response to that report, we believed it was unsafe to have more than six patients in the hospital at one time. It would not have been possible to evacuate them all in the event of an inferno. A tender will be awarded on 16 July to complete fire improvements at the Yarloop hospital. The value of the tender is approximately \$125 000 and the time allowed for the completion of the upgrade work by the successful contractor is a maximum of 20 weeks. The work to be performed at Yarloop hospital will include the installation of a sprinkler system, construction of fire-separation walls and a fireproof enclosure, including fire-rated doors to the existing mechanical services; construction of ramp access to the main entry; installation of two-hour fire-rated doors and frames to the covered walkway; and alterations to make good the existing entry doors. Following completion of the work, the South West Area Health Service will lift the cap on patient numbers at the Yarloop hospital.