

HOSPITALS, ADMINISTRATION STAFF, SHARED SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

2130. Hon Murray Criddle to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

I refer to the introduction of new, shared service arrangements for hospital administration staff which will result in a major change in the way finance and human resource departments will be managed, and ask -

- (1) Will these arrangements result in a reduction or transfer of FTEs out of country locations?
- (2) How many country positions will be lost under these new arrangements?
- (3) Where will these positions be lost from?
- (4) What are the anticipated benefits and financial savings from this arrangement specifically in relation to country health services?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The project is still in the initial stages of the design phase. Therefore, the reduction in the number of corporate services positions is not yet clear.
- (3) See above.
- (4) The final number of positions affected will not be determined until around September of this year when the design phase is completed. Therefore it is not yet possible to state in detail, the savings to country health services. However, some of the clear benefits to country health services include:
  - The freeing up of valuable management time to enable a stronger focus on the core function of health care.
  - Improved management information for decision-making purposes.
  - Ability for government to direct scarce resources into front line health services. Government is seeking to save approximately \$50 million per annum from whole of Government corporate services reform and redirect this into core priority community services such as health and education.
  - More effective and efficient corporate services that deliver better services to regional areas, particularly in functions where it is difficult to attract and retain skilled resources.