

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SERVICES, COUNTRY, EXPENDITURE, APPROPRIATIONS AND STAFF
2353. Hon Murray Criddle to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

On 18 December 2003, the Minister for Health provided the Leader of the National Party with expenditure information for hospitals in regional Western Australia for 2002-2003. I now seek from the Minister -

- (1) 2003-2004 financial year expenditure for each individual hospital and health service in the Western Australian Country Health Service and the South West Health Service.
- (2) 2004-2005 appropriations for each individual hospital and health service in the Western Australian Country Health Service and the South West Health Service.
- (3) The number of FTEs in each hospital or health service in the Western Australian Country Health Service and the South West Health Service, for each of the years -
 - (a) 2002-2003;
 - (b) 2003-2004; and
 - (c) 2004-2005.
- (4) A list of the specialist health services lost or gained for each hospital or health service in the Western Australian Country Health Service and the South West Health Service, over the period 2001 to 2004.
- (5) A list of all positions that have been downgraded, including administrative staff, for each hospital or health service in the Western Australian Country Health Service and the South West Health Service since February 2001.

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE

- (1) The WA Country Health Service has been a statutory Area Health Service and budget holder for all rural and remote publicly funded health services in the Kimberley, Pilbara Gascoyne, Midwest Murchison, Wheatbelt, Goldfields South East and Great Southern regions. The area health service manages its budget allocation for service delivery, capital projects, corporate support and special health planning and policy projects at the central, regional and district levels. As such, there are no longer isolated health care unit budgets which can be compared to the health care unit budgets prior to 1 July 2002. This is because several functions and cost centres previously provided and administered by a large number of individual boards are now undertaken at different levels. The actual gross operating expenditure, excluding capital user charges and accelerated depreciation, for the WA Country Health Service for 2003/04 was \$423,863,264.
- (2) The initial gross operating budget, excluding capital user charges and accelerated depreciation, for the WA Country Health Service for 2004/05 is \$437,124,478.
- (3) (a)-(c) The number of FTEs in each WA Country Health Service region are as follows:

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
	Actual	Actual	Actual
	FTE	FTE	FTE
Goldfields South East region	628.30	632.70	632.00
Great Southern region	678.50	679.90	685.10
Kimberley region	675.00	663.00	679.20
Midwest Murchison region	597.30	612.70	609.70
Pilbara Gascoyne region	759.20	778.10	783.40
Wheatbelt region	963.20	975.00	968.20

- (4) Discontinued visiting specialist medical arrangements are as follows:

Goldfields South East region - Ravensthorpe District Hospital, general surgery (visiting) - Ravensthorpe patients are now referred to Esperance.

Pilbara Gascoyne region - Carnarvon Regional Hospital, Urology (visiting) - the previous specialist service will cease but the hospital has arranged for a replacement provider.

Port Hedland Regional Hospital, Gastroenterology (visiting) - the resident salaried general surgeon now undertakes this work.

Wheatbelt region - Bruce Rock Memorial Hospital, general surgery (visiting) - patients are now referred to Merredin. Lake Grace District Hospital, General Surgery (visiting) - patients are now referred to Narrogin.

Additional specialist services introduced in each region are as follows:

Region/Hospital	Specialty	*Type of Service
Great Southern Region:		
Albany Regional Hospital	Dermatology	Visiting
Katanning District Hospital	Ophthalmologist	Outreach
	Orthopaedic	Visiting
	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
Goldfields South East Region:		
Esperance District Hospital	Dental	Resident
	Paediatrics	Visiting
Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Outreach
	Paediatrics	Outreach
	Pain management	Visiting
	Physician	Outreach
	Plastic surgeon	Visiting
	Spinal surgeon	Visiting
Kimberley Region:		
Broome District Hospital	Community Physician	Resident and Outreach
Derby Regional Hospital	Geriatrician	Visiting
Fitzroy Crossing District Hospital	Cardiology	Visiting
	Cardiology	Visiting
	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
Halls Creek District Hospital	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
Kununurra District Hospital	Cardiology	Visiting
Midwest Murchison Region:		
Geraldton Regional Hospital	Endocrinology	Visiting
	Physician	Outreach
Meekatharra District Hospital	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
Wiluna	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
	Gynaecologist	Visiting
Pilbara Gascoyne Region:		
Carnarvon Regional Hospital	Ophthalmology	Visiting
	Oral surgeon	Visiting
Exmouth District Hospital	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
Newman District Hospital	Ophthalmology	Visiting
	Physician	Visiting
Nickol Bay Hospital (Karratha)	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
	Ophthalmology	Visiting
	Orthopods	Visiting
	Physician	Visiting
Port Hedland Regional Hospital	Orthopaedics	Visiting
	Ear, Nose and Throat	Visiting
	Genetics	Visiting
	Urology	Visiting
	Nephrology	Visiting
	Paediatrics	Outreach
	Orthotist	Visiting
	Palliative care	Visiting
Wheatbelt Region:		
Merredin District Hospital	Psychogeriatrician	Visiting
	Rheumatologist	Visiting
	Dermatologist	Visiting
Moora District Hospital	Cardiologist	Visiting
	Psychogeriatrician	Visiting
Northam Regional Hospital	Pain management	Visiting
Narrogin Regional Hospital	Cardiologist	Visiting

	Gerontologist	Visiting
	Psychiatrist	Visiting
Region/Hospital	Specialty	*Type of Service
	Thoracic physician	Visiting
	Pain management	Visiting
	Ear Nose and Throat	Visiting
Southern Cross District Hospital	Paediatrics	Visiting
	Obstetric and Gynaecology	Visiting
	Physician	Visiting

*Type of Service -

Resident: A specialist medical practitioner who normally resides in the country region.

Outreach: A regular program of outreach visits from a regional resource centre to smaller towns or communities within the region. Resident specialist medical practitioners generally provide these services.

Visiting: A service provided by a specialist medical practitioner who normally resides in the metropolitan area and who has a program of regular visits to country areas.

- (5) Since February 2001 the following functions have been reviewed and the positions reclassified to reflect work value and organisational need.

Great Southern region:

Administrative Assistant, Level 3 (HSU), Kojonup Hospital - function abolished and new position Clerk/Receptionist created at Level 1/2 (HSU).

Community Mental Health Nurse, Level 3 (ANF), Albany - function abolished and new position Community Health Nurse Level 2 (ANF) created.

Kimberley region:

Medical Specialist Administrative Officer, Derby, Level 5 (HSU) part-time position, position reclassified to Level 3 (HSU) fulltime as a result of decrease in work value to equate to comparative Level 3 positions.

Midwest Murchison region:

Regional Community Health Coordinator, Geraldton, SRN Level 5 (ANF) reclassified to Senior Community Nurse SRN level 2 (ANF) to reflect work value.

Administrative Assistant, Morawa, Level 3 (HSU) to Level 2 (HSU) to reflect altered work value.

Catering Coordinator, Geraldton, Level 4 (HSU) to Chef Level 11 (Support Workers) to reflect altered work value.

Pilbara Gascoyne region:

Chef, Level 11 (Support Workers), Carnarvon, position reclassified to Cook, Level 5 (Support Workers) to reflect range of duties undertaken.

Human Resource Manager, Carnarvon, Level 7 (HSU), position abolished and new position of Senior Employee Relations Officer, Level 5 (HSU) created.

Wheatbelt region:

Business Support Officer Level 3 (HSU) (reclassified), replaced with Administrative Assistant Level 2 (HSU) - Kununoppin Hospital - corporate functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll, previously undertaken by this position, are now completed at the regional level and there is no longer the need to provide administrative support to the hospital Board (abolished June 2002).

Business Support Officer Level 3 (HSU) (reclassified), replaced with Administrative Assistant Level 2 (HSU) - Quairading Hospital - corporate functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll, previously undertaken by this position, are now completed at the regional level and there is no longer the need to provide administrative support to the hospital Board (abolished June 2002).

Business Support Officer Level 3 (reclassified), replaced with Administrative Assistant Level 2 - Wagin Hospital - corporate functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll, previously

undertaken by this position, are now completed at the regional level and there is no longer the need to provide administrative support to the hospital Board (abolished June 2002).

SOUTH WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE

- (1) 2003-2004 adjusted gross expenditure for SWAHS was \$111,299,000.
- (2) 2004-2005 base funding allocation for SWAHS is \$112,686,600.
- (3) Since its consolidation, SWAHS no longer reports FTE by hospital.

In 2002-2003 SWAHS FTE was 1126. Throughout 2003-04 SWAHS implemented benchmark staffing levels. The movement towards benchmarks, together with efficiencies related to implementation of area wide services resulted in a reduction of 30 FTE in 2003-04 to 1094. The reduction in FTE did not affect service provisions. It is anticipated that FTE levels will not be reduced in 2004-05.

- (4) There has been no loss of specialist services within SWAHS. Services gained are:

Ophthalmology - 2 additional resident SW ophthalmologists

Emergency Medicine - Full time salaried emergency medical cover at Bunbury Regional Hospital

Anaesthetics - additional specialist anaesthetists at Bunbury Regional and Busselton District Hospitals

Paediatrics - 2 additional SW resident paediatricians at Bunbury Regional Hospital

- (5) No positions within SWAHS have been downgraded since February 2001.