

CURTIN UNIVERSITY — MEDICAL SCHOOL PROPOSAL

8271. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Health

I refer to the proposal for a medical school to be located at Curtin University, and ask:

- (a) what studies have been done into the availability of preregistration hospital placement opportunities for newly graduated doctors;
- (b) what are the Government's plans to cope with the already known increase that will take place in the number of graduating doctors from the University of Western Australia and Notre Dame; and
- (c) has the proposal factored in the possibility that the number of graduates may exceed the number of placement opportunities?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (a) The Department of Health has analysed the anticipated increases in the number of domestic graduates from the two existing medical schools in Western Australia (WA) and the anticipated number of preregistration hospital placements for newly graduated doctors required to be made available in the WA public health system to 2014/15.
- (b) In the 2011/12 Budget, the WA State Government approved funding of \$68.8 million over four years for the Department to expand its postgraduate medical training capacity to accommodate the anticipated increases in the number of domestic graduates from WA's existing medical schools to 2014/15.
- (c) Current preregistration training capacity and approved expansion in the health system is based on assessed demand from WA's existing medical schools. Any expansion in medical training places, whether through the existing medical schools or through establishment of a third medical school, would necessitate further planning to be undertaken in the context of national discussion on training capacity.