

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS

1118. Hon SUE ELLERY to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Auditor General's report regarding the misuse of almost \$25 million in specific purpose funds to pay for operational expenses such as outstanding invoices.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the funds used were commonwealth funds allocated for specific purposes such as research equipment?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that on 18 June 2009 the Department of Health gave specific and unqualified assurances to a Legislative Council committee that specific purpose funds would not be used in this manner?
- (3) Does the minister accept that moneys misappropriated but paid back at a later date are still misappropriated?
- (4) Can the minister assure the house that if this was a misuse of Council of Australian Governments funding, future commonwealth funding in Western Australia will not be subject to sanction because of this inappropriate action?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)-(4) The Minister for Health has advised that no COAG funding was used by the Department of Health at the end of the 2008-09 financial year for operational expenses. Consequently, there has been no misuse of COAG funding.