

PUBLIC HOSPITALS — CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SHUTDOWN

1014. Hon SUE ELLERY to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to last year's Christmas and new year shutdown arrangements for several metropolitan public hospital clinical services and elective surgery theatres being for more than a month, which is more than double the usual shutdown period of two weeks.

- (1) What will be the average shutdown and restricted services period for metropolitan hospitals during the upcoming Christmas and new year period?
- (2) Can the minister provide details of the proposed dates of the upcoming shutdown period and restriction on services for each of the metropolitan public hospitals, listed by hospital?
- (3) If it is more than two weeks at any metropolitan hospital, what are the reasons for the extended closure?
- (4) Will any non-metropolitan hospitals be affected by a shutdown period or restriction of services for more than two weeks; and, if so, for how long, and what are the reasons for the extended closure?
- (5) Will the minister guarantee that the proposed closure of many theatres for the normal Christmas and new year period will not result in a blow-out of waiting times for elective surgery patients?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question.

The Minister for Health advises that this information is complex and cannot be gathered within the time frame specified. The Minister for Health will provide the information to the member within two weeks.