

ONslow DISTRICT HOSPITAL - ACCESS ROAD

138. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

This is a question I asked last week to which I do not have an answer. I refer to the access roads leading from Second Avenue and McGrath Road to Onslow District Hospital.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the condition of these roads is such that ambulances, including those transporting spinal injury patients, must navigate potholes and sand drifts to transfer patients to the Royal Flying Doctor Service?
- (2) Is the minister aware that ambulance officers attending supine patients have to physically hold the patient's head on the pillow while the ambulance is in motion on these roads?
- (3) Does the minister consider that the condition of these roads would be acceptable in a hospital in the metropolitan area?
- (4) Will the minister immediately commit funds to bring these roads to a standard that would be acceptable in a hospital in the metropolitan area?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The access roads to the hospital coming off Second Avenue and McGrath Road are in poor condition, and it is acknowledged that they require urgent repair. The Second Avenue access - the main entrance to the hospital - is in better condition than the McGrath Road entry, and St John Ambulance Australia has advised its volunteer drivers to use the main entrance, and not the other access road, until repairs are completed.
- (2) I am aware that St John Ambulance Australia volunteer ambulance attendants are taking all precautions to ensure patient safety while patients are being transported to and from the hospital.
- (3) The condition of the access roads is not considered acceptable for any health care facility. Repairs have been undertaken to these access roads in the past, and they now require resurfacing.
- (4) In early 2007, the WA Country Health Service allocated funding for this project. Negotiations with the Shire of Ashburton to undertake works on these roads, in conjunction with its local roadworks program in Onslow, are currently underway. It is expected that the repairs to the access roads will be carried out in June-July of this year.