

SOUTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE — GROUP TRAINING APPRENTICES — TERMINATION

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

I refer to the termination last year of three group training apprentices from work with the South Metropolitan Health Service and the employment, in their place, of eight Work for the Dole recipients.

- (1) Were the group training apprentices let go from the South Metropolitan Health Service due to budget cuts forced on the department; and, if not, why were they terminated?
- (2) Why were eight Work for the Dole recipients taken on by the South Metropolitan Health Service after the termination of the apprentices and asked to undertake some of the duties of an apprentice?
- (3) Will the Minister for Health now give a commitment to employ an appropriate number of apprentices across the Department of Health in order to have a future replacement number of skilled tradespeople?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health, I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The data required to answer the member's questions needs to be manually collated. The South Metropolitan Health Service is unable to respond within the allocated time frame and, as such, I request that the member place this question on notice.
- (3) Apprentices are employed or engaged by individual health service providers via group training organisations as required. Decisions to recruit employees are needs based and reflect the demand for services and skills. The WA Health system collectively is one of the largest employers in the state and is committed to ensuring that it has a reliable supply of future workers.