

House: Legislative Assembly- QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Date: Tuesday, 21 November 2006
Member: Castrilli, Mr John; McGinty, Mr Jim
Subject: HEALTH - UROLOGICAL SERVICES IN SOUTH WEST
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HEALTH - UROLOGICAL SERVICES IN SOUTH WEST

1562. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Health

I refer to my grievance to the Minister on 15 June 2006 relating to Urological equipment in the South West and ask -

- (a) will the Minister advise the number of patients who have been referred to Perth hospitals from the South West over the past 12 months for treatment with flexible ureterorenoscopy using the Holmium laser;
- (b) will the Minister advise what the cost of the introduction of the flexible ureterorenoscope for the Bunbury Regional Hospital will be;
- (c) will the Minister confirm if the business case for the introduction of the flexible ureterorenoscope to the Bunbury Regional Hospital has been completed and forwarded to the Western Australian Country Health Service for funding consideration for 2006/0;
- (d) will the Minister confirm when the people of the South West can expect commencement of services at the Bunbury Regional Hospital with the flexible ureterorenoscope for treatment of kidney stones; and
- (e) will the Minister advise the outcome of the discussion held during the Bunbury Regional Hospital Medical Advisory committee on 16 June 2006 in terms of the introduction of a flexible ureterorenoscope?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

(a) In the financial year 2005/06 there were 42 patients referred from Bunbury to Perth. Of these, 22 were public patients sent to metropolitan hospitals and 20 were private patients referred by the **urologists** to private hospitals in Perth.

(b) A recent quotation of cost to purchase estimates the cost of the laser unit to be \$103,000 and the flexible scopes to be \$17,000 each. There is a need for two flexible scopes to run the service and there is not a long life span for each scope so it is anticipated that one is replaced annually.

There will also be salary expenses associated with having a person educated in laser safety to operate the laser equipment and for educating clinical staff in the use and care of the equipment.

(c) The business case from Bunbury Hospital to the WA Country Health Service has not been finalised. Discussions have recently taken place between Bunbury Hospital's medical administrator, the private resident **urologists** and with Saint John of God Health Care (SJOGHC) regarding the provision of the services to both public and private patients sharing one set of equipment for all patients.

SJOGHC have informed Bunbury Hospital that SJOGHC is seeking funding from the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing through its Rural Private

Access Program to fund the service for the private patients. It is expected that, like other surgical equipment at the co-located facilities, the equipment's use could be shared by the two hospitals therefore allowing the public patients access to the procedure locally.

SJOGHC have advised Bunbury Hospital and the **urologists** that funding applications close in January 2007 with the outcome announced up to six months later.

(d) The introduction of the service at Bunbury is dependent on the outcome of the SJOGHC funding application to the Australian Government.

(e) The matter was discussed at Bunbury Hospital's Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting in July 2006. The hospital's MAC was advised of the request from the **urologists** for equipment to the approximate value of \$150,000. The MAC was requested to advise the hospital's management of all the equipment requests from other specialties so that the hospital's management could then prioritise all the requests for equipment procurement on the basis of need. This information is currently being incorporated into an overall clinical equipment list for the hospital to be used for prioritising clinical equipment purchases for the hospital.