



Ministerial Media Statements

Recent Statements



Kim Hames
Deputy Premier; Health; Tourism

Thu 19 May, 2011

State Budget 2011-12: Supporting our Community; Building the State (Health) - Major spend in WA health budget for regional areas

Portfolio: Health

A major boost for regional health care in southern inland Western Australia is the centrepiece of the State Government's spending on health in 2011-12.

Health Minister Kim Hames said the \$565million Southern Inland Health Initiative, funded through the Liberal-National Government's Royalties for Regions program, was a comprehensive package to bolster healthcare for all residents in the region.

"This funding aims to provide up to 44 more doctors in towns in the southern inland region where recruitment has been particularly difficult," Dr Hames said.

"Financial incentives will encourage private practitioners to preserve and improve private medical practices in these country areas.

"Support will focus on district centres to serve the wider population, including the increased use of telehealth technology.

The Minister said that the package includes a \$240million investment in the health workforce and the provision of health services over four years and includes \$325million in capital works over five years.

"This investment will fund facility upgrades at six integrated district hospitals and strengthen the provision of medical services such as emergency response and primary medical care."

The State Government has announced \$6.2billion in targeted spending to provide quality health services in 2011-12.

Other new funding includes an extra \$363million in the forward estimates to cater for increased demand resulting from population growth.

"Demand for services in the State's public hospitals has been unprecedented, with attendances to emergency departments increasing about five per cent in the past year," Dr Hames said.

"At major tertiary hospitals including Royal Perth, Fremantle, Sir Charles Gairdner and Princess Margaret, the rate rose as high as nine per cent in the March quarter of this year compared to last year.

"This additional funding to cater for population growth will ensure we can keep up with that demand."

The other major area of health expenditure is in capital works, which shows planned spending of \$1.56billion in 2011-12 - 75 per cent or \$668million higher than health capital works spending in the 2010-11 Budget.

"We are rebuilding Health services in WA from the ground up," the Minister said.

“We have more than 130 projects in our asset investment program and construction is under way on a number of new hospitals, notably the \$1.76billion Fiona Stanley Hospital which is on time and on budget.

“This capital works budget includes \$56.9million for replacement medical equipment, up from \$42.3million in 2010-11, to ensure the public has access to the most up-to-date services possible.”

Work will start on the:

- \$1.2billion New Children’s Hospital - completion 2015

Work will continue on the:

- \$1.76billion Fiona Stanley Hospital - completion 2013
- \$255.7million new State Rehabilitation Service - completion 2013
- \$229.8million expansion of services and facilities at the Joondalup Health Campus - completion in 2013
- \$170.4million for the Albany Health Campus - completion in 2012
- \$58.3million for a new PathWest Centre at the QEII Medical Centre - completion 2012
- \$51.4million for Cancer Centre Stage 2 at the QEII Medical Centre - completion 2012
- \$55.8million Kalgoorlie Health Campus redevelopment - completion 2013.

Planning will continue on:

- \$360.2million new Midland Health Campus - construction to start 2012
- \$117.9million Busselton Health Campus - construction to start 2012
- \$178.9million upgrade of facilities at Karratha Health Campus, Carnarvon Hospital and Exmouth Hospital
- \$31.3million upgrade of Esperance Hospital.

Construction completed this financial year:

- \$136.7million Hedland Health Campus, opened November 2010
- \$114.7million redevelopment of Rockingham Hospital, opened September 2010.

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