

Question on Notice
No. 776
Asked on 18 June 2004

MR FRASER asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL) -

QUESTION:

- (1) Will he detail the scope of works to be conducted at the Halwyn Centre in Red Hill in my electorate?
- (2) How will these works improve the service offered at this vital facility?

ANSWER:

(1)&(2) The works to be carried out at the Halwyn Centre are directed at maintaining the facility in an appropriate manner and also to ensure that the environment is appropriate for the current residents. When Halwyn was first built it was designed for young children and babies. The residents are now all adults and clearly have different needs. The major changes being undertaken, and the benefits which will accrue are:

- A new ramp access from Level 1 of the building to the car park is being installed to improve fire exits for wheelchairs and to facilitate appropriate evacuation of the building.
- As the life expectancy of the floor coverings and paintworks have been reached, there will be new floor coverings installed and a repaint undertaken.
- The 30 year old joinery fittings, originally designed for child occupants, are to be replaced and new wardrobes, cupboards, kitchenettes etc will be installed. This will provide for appropriate facilities for the residents personal effects, their clothing and support changes in the operation of the Centre.
- The air handling units, chillers and controls are at the end of their effective life. These will be replaced to provide reliable air conditioning to the Centre.
- Alterations are currently underway to convert sliding doors to hinged doors to improve fire egress and safety for the occupants. Refurbishment of supporting pathways is also scheduled to commence shortly.
- The fire system is to be replaced to ensure compliance with the current fire code and to complement resident's safety.
- Work has already been undertaken to replace corroded roofing and gutters to ensure the water integrity of the building.

These changes will revitalise the Centre and improve the standard of care available to the residents.