

ST JOHN AMBULANCE — INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

**843. Mr R.H. COOK to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister accept that his failure to respond meaningfully to the ambulance crisis now and to wait until the next budget will potentially mean that more people will die in the meantime?

**Dr K.D. HAMES replied:**

Absolutely not. I do not know why the member bothers to do all this now when we will debate this matter in half an hour. I will clearly show how good the service is that the ambulance is currently providing and highlight the minuscule change that has occurred since the Labor Party was in government. I will outline that the problems that have occurred were caused by the failure of the former government and why there is now so much pressure on the ambulance service.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** That is all I wanted to hear you say. Thank you. You can sit down now.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not want to hear any of this, does he?

**Mr R.H. Cook:** No, because I have the information I need.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not like hearing it. The trouble is that the Labor Party has lost an enormous asset in the former Minister for Health. He really understood the health system, the pressures placed on it and the problems that presented. Instead, the ALP has a wet-behind-the-ears spin doctor who has not got a clue. The Labor Party should get Jim back because the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is a failure.