

MAY FAMILY — DEATH OF BABY ANGUS MAY

728. Mr R.H. COOK to the Minister for Health:

I welcome the minister belatedly back from lunch. Yesterday Sharon May spoke of her feelings of betrayal at the hands of the health system, having been treated on the floor of the Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital emergency department while heavily pregnant and suffering from swine flu.

- (1) Does the minister consider that this an appropriate level of care for a member of the public?
- (2) Does the minister accept responsibility for this event?
- (3) Will the minister issue an apology to Ms May for that level of treatment?
- (4) Will the minister assure the house that, despite his planned cuts of 10 per cent in health, this sort of incident will never happen again?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1)-(4) I do not know how I can give a different answer from that which I gave yesterday. This is being investigated. The circumstances behind what occurred in the hospital are being investigated.

Mr R.H. Cook: Do you consider it is an appropriate level of care?

Dr K.D. HAMES: I do not know whether it was an appropriate level of care until I see the report that describes the level of care and the circumstances.

Mr R.H. Cook: Don't you believe her?

Dr K.D. HAMES: There is nothing for me to believe or not believe. I have not spoken to Ms May directly. The member for Kwinana claimed yesterday in this place that she came to me. I had no request from her to meet me. I would have been happy to meet her, if she had made that request.

Mr R.H. Cook: They just wanted a phone call from your office.

Dr K.D. HAMES: No, they did not. I have given the member the details of what occurred. Mr May contacted me, and he did not request a contact from my office. As I said yesterday, the circumstances are tragic, and the opposition should stop trying to get political mileage out of it.