

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — MAJOR TRAUMA CENTRE

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

I have a supplementary question. Does this not undermine the prospect of Fiona Stanley Hospital being the flagship hospital for Western Australia?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

Not in the least. I do not see how the Deputy Leader of the Opposition can suggest for one second that that will be the case. Fiona Stanley Hospital will be a major new hospital. As members know, it will have more than 640 beds. We also have the funding —

Mr E.S. Ripper interjected.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The alternative was that that money went to pay debt. The former government had X-million dollars worth of debt. That money could have been put towards paying off the debt but, instead, it was put into a separate piggy bank. In fact, it was not even taken out and put into a separate piggy bank, was it? It was still there; it was just earmarked. There was no separate amount of money, and the Leader of the Opposition knows it, because I asked him about it.

Fiona Stanley Hospital will be the flagship new hospital in this state. We have added, through the very kind contribution of the commonwealth government, a replacement for Shenton Park hospital, at a cost of about \$250 million. In fact, the former Minister for Health was very complimentary about that. He said that we had filled in the last pieces of the jigsaw puzzle by adding in the Midland hospital and the replacement for Shenton Park hospital. I acknowledge the work done by the former government in putting in the funding and the initial plans for those hospitals. Of course, the reality is that in the same way that Labor, when it came into government, took over some significant infrastructure projects that we had put in place, we are doing that. In fact, I made that comment when in opposition. Members opposite think that they did all these things. The reality is that we are doing them, we will be opening them, and we will take pleasure in doing that.