

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — MAJOR TRAUMA CENTRE

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

I refer to recent statements about the new Fiona Stanley Hospital that trauma services will simply be included as part of the range of services at the hospital. Can the minister confirm that the Fiona Stanley Hospital will be the major trauma centre for Western Australia as initially planned and promised, or has its proposed status now been downgraded?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

As members may know, under the former government the trauma centre at Royal Perth Hospital was significantly extended and upgraded and given the title of State Trauma Centre by the former government in the last year of its existence. We made a commitment that Royal Perth Hospital would remain as a major trauma centre in this state. The commitment was made by the previous government that there would be only one major trauma centre in this state, and it would be located at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Is what I said incorrect? Is the member questioning what I said? The previous government stated that Fiona Stanley Hospital would be the major trauma centre for the state. It would transfer across with the closure of Royal Perth Hospital as a tertiary hospital. We have committed to retain Royal Perth Hospital as a tertiary hospital, and that is very strongly supported by people in Western Australia, particularly by the member for Mount Lawley and the member for Morley.

Mr C.J. Barnett: And the member for Perth.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes, probably the member for Perth also. It is very strongly supported by people in this state, so we are retaining it. The issue is which will become the major trauma centre. When we look at the studies of projected population growth in this state, we see that it is estimated that by 2014 we will need two major trauma centres in this state, not one. The way it has been arranged is that, from the very start, those two major trauma centres will be Fiona Stanley Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital. Therefore, we will have two major trauma centres. We got into an argument about which would be the major trauma centre. My view is that with time and with the facilities that will be provided, Fiona Stanley Hospital, by dint of the number of patients who will go there and the quality of the staff, will eventually be regarded as the premier trauma centre. But, for now, I am not saying which is B or which is A. We will have two major trauma centres in this state, and they will be Royal Perth Hospital and Fiona Stanley Hospital. Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will continue to deal with metropolitan trauma.