

GALLIERS PRIVATE MATERNITY WARD

**793. Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. In light of the minister's explanation that the applications were lost in a drawer, will he table all hospital and departmental correspondence that occurred about the filling of these vacancies?

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

No, I will not do that. I do not see the necessity for it.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** That is right, because it would show that what you are saying is just complete rubbish.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** No, it would not. All those things are true.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** Applications were lost in a drawer. I mean, hello!

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Armadale was given the opportunity to ask a supplementary question. The member might not necessarily like the answer; however, that does not give the member the opportunity to keep on talking over the minister on his feet.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The member for Armadale has the opportunity to submit a freedom of information application.

The reality is that we would not have been in this position today if the previous government had not messed up a contract in the first place. It was a clear requirement of the legislation for the previous government to fulfil those conditions. There were only three conditions it had to meet and it failed to fulfil those conditions and, as a result, the private sector had it over a barrel.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** No, you closed down that ward and you are not telling the truth about the circumstances.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** For what other reason did the previous government pay the \$15 million; tell me that?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** We bought the company out, because you had set up an impossible arrangement to defend your honour when you had failed to privatise that hospital.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** How could the previous government buy it out when the government owned the hospital? What was it buying?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** We were paying it back the money that you had taken.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Part of the contract was that that property came under the ownership of the government, as did the other private hospitals. That wing was owned by government.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** Of course it was.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The previous government did not buy out anything. It paid it out.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** We bought out the business.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The private sector did not start the business, because the previous government did not fulfil the requirements of the contract and the business was no longer viable. The business was no longer viable because the previous government would not pay for something that was a clear commitment of government and the government failed; that is the reason it paid it the \$15 million.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, members. It was a fascinating question time. Thank you to members on both sides. I suggest to ministers that they might want to keep their answers a little shorter; a little more confined. I suggest to members on my left that sometimes they might want to cease making interjections continually in this place, so that we might have a question time that is productive to at least some members of this place. That concludes question time.