

MIDLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL

**123. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Health:**

I understand that yesterday the minister visited the construction site of the new Midland Public Hospital. Could he please update the house on how this new hospital for the people in Perth's eastern suburbs is coming along?

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

Yes, I looked at the hospital. We celebrated the 50 per cent mark of construction; in fact, as I was leaving, I was told that it was probably more like 60 per cent already. Construction is well underway. The new hospital is looking amazing. It is well on target to be completed by the time we said it would be completed and to be ready for opening towards the end of 2015. I was at the hospital with the member for Forrestfield and two upper house members. We were very impressed with the quality of the construction. As I am sure members have heard me say previously, it will replace Swan District Hospital. It will have 307 public beds, which will provide all the public health care for people in the eastern suburbs, and 60 private beds. It will be great to have in the eastern region some private hospital beds, because there have been no private beds in that area for a long time. There used to be a private hospital in the hills, but it shut down at least six or seven years ago. This hospital will once again provide the opportunity for private care.

As members know, we have contracted St John of God Health Care to run the hospital. The rest will be public beds, with free care for the public. It will be a fantastic improvement —

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** Will it provide a full range of services?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, if you want to ask a question, put your name down.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** It will provide a full range of services at that site, as we have made clear in the past. At the other end, we are seeking expressions of interest and are in negotiations with two providers that are keen to provide the additional services of a relatively minor nature at that site.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** A minor nature!

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** They are. When I had my vasectomy, it was pretty easy. I sat up and watched it.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** Too much information!

Several members interjected.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** They are of a relatively minor nature.

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Yours might be harder because they have to find them first!

**Mr R.H. Cook:** If this is the level of your care!

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The hospital will provide a fantastic opportunity for children to be treated out there. It will have a separate play area for children in the waiting room. There is a separate children's ward, which is an isolated area with six beds in it, so that children who are being assessed will be separated from the adult patients. The children's ward will go from eight to 12 beds. We talked with the new children's hospital about where people are best treated and about the expansions to Joondalup Health Campus. There will be fantastic facilities for children at Fiona Stanley Hospital. This will expand the capacity for children out in the eastern suburbs, thereby taking a lot of pressure off the new Perth Children's Hospital. It is a fantastic new facility. It is great to see it going well at 50 per cent completion and we look forward to going out there when it is at 55 per cent completion.