

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS DAY SURGERY, FUNDING

697. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to an article in the *Coastal District Times* in which he said that \$2.4 million for the Peel Health Campus day surgery has been provided for in this year's budget and is fully funded.

- (1) Why have there been delays in advertising the request for tenders for this project?
- (2) Will construction of this project commence this financial year or does the Government intend to delay the project until 2002-03 because not enough funds have been set aside for the project in the budget?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) Some scaremongering is going on. I compliment the member for Mandurah, who has keenly followed this issue. Unlike the member for Dawesville, the member for Mandurah took the trouble to find out what is the true situation. There was a late budget this year because of the change of government - in case anyone had not noticed. As I have already advised the member for Dawesville in and out of this Chamber, \$2.4 million has been allocated in the overall program of capital works for that development. An amount of \$1 million has been set aside in the current budget process to proceed with the planning and other processes. It is expected that because of the length of time that will take, the other \$1.4 million required to complete the project will be included in next year's capital works program. The program and the process of establishing a renal dialysis unit at the existing facility are proceeding. As we progress to the next planning process, the funding arrangements will be considered.

I am pleased that the member for Mandurah and the President in the other House have portrayed this issue positively. This is a good news story for Peel and Mandurah and the people who need the program. However, yet again we see reports in the paper and hear from members opposite who are attempting to turn it into a bad news story. I am more than happy to meet the member for Dawesville outside the Chamber to explain the budget process to him. I will show the member where the funds for this project have been allocated in the budget. I assure the member that the program is locked into place and the people of Mandurah will get the benefits from it, just as the rural sector is benefiting from this Government at the moment. This is a good news story and a merry Christmas to the member.