

**KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, INQUIRY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MR KUCERA** (Yokine - Minister for Health) [12.08 pm]: On 12 March this year I presented a report to Parliament outlining the actions that had taken place following the establishment of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women inquiry implementation group. As members would be aware, this group was established by the Director General, Department of Health to oversee the implementation of the 237 recommendations made in the report of the inquiry into obstetric and gynaecological services at King Edward Memorial Hospital. In presenting my report in March, I undertook to provide a progress report to Parliament every three months.

I am pleased to inform the House today that significant progress has been made towards addressing a number of important issues, including -

- increasing the numbers of senior medical staff;
- extending the supervision and training of junior doctors;
- establishing 24-hour on-site coverage by senior clinicians;
- upgrading facilities in the delivery suite, emergency department and adult special care unit;
- a review of clinical policy and procedures; and
- implementing a clinical incident monitoring system.

All the recommendations in the highest risk category have now been reviewed. Implementation of these has either been completed or is near completion and will be presented to the implementation group for formal approval. To date, 54 recommendations have been completed and formally signed off. A further 27 recommendations have been completed at King Edward Memorial Hospital and are awaiting formal sign-off by the implementation group in July. Significant progress has also been made in addressing a further 91 recommendations, but these are not yet ready for sign-off by the implementation group. Changes already made at KEMH include the addition of clinical staff, new methods and policy, staff training programs and an increase in senior clinical supervision. Five additional full-time consultants have been recruited, including two obstetrician-gynaecologists, one materno-foetal medicine specialist, a professor of newborn services and a professor of gynaecology.

Plans are also under way to upgrade the emergency centre and special care nursery, the delivery suite and observation ward and the adult special care unit. The State Government has authorised expenditure of \$1.492 million for beds and cots, upgrading the labour ward and neonatal unit, diagnostic imaging equipment and syringe pump and sterilisers. These funds are part of \$15 million allocated to KEMH for capital expenditure over four years.

Staff training courses for basic introductory and advanced cardiotocograph foetal monitoring for all midwives and medical staff have been implemented, and training and credentialling for perineal repair is in development. In conjunction with the collaborative training and education centre, KEMH is developing training courses for mock obstetric emergencies and crisis management. A foetal obstetric simulator is in development and a foetal monitoring course is now in operation.

Additional ward rounds by senior registrars have begun at 8.00 am on Saturdays and Sundays, and plans are in progress for after-hours senior clinical cover to be extended from 10.00 pm to midnight. The daily ward rounds have now been increased from once to three times a day, and more senior cover is now provided from 10.00 pm to 8.00 am daily.

Planning for the provision of 24-hour on-site senior obstetric cover has begun and will be achieved in a staged approach, but delays are expected with the recruitment of additional staff. KEMH has advertised for two additional senior registrars, and will shortly be advertising for an additional materno-foetal medicine specialist, an obstetrician-gynaecologist, a senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology and two half-time sub-specialty fellows.

The State Government remains committed to restoring public confidence in King Edward Memorial Hospital and has made a \$25 million commitment to boost both the hospital's physical and human capital. It is pleasing to see good progress being made on the inquiry's recommendations, and I will report again to Parliament in three months on further progress that has been made.