

KARRATHA HEALTH CAMPUS AND NORTHAM HEALTH SERVICE

**861. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the recently opened Karratha Health Campus and Northam Health Service, both excellent projects initiated by the previous Liberal–National government to improve health services for regional Western Australians.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the eight-bed short-stay unit at Karratha Health Campus remains closed despite the hospital operating now for almost two months?
- (2) Is the reason the unit is not being used a lack of funding?
- (3) Has there been a delay in the expected completion date of Northam hospital; and, if so, why?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) I do not know the specific details about the eight-bed short-stay unit, although I do know that when a new campus is moved into, in a similar vein to Perth Children’s Hospital, there is a ramp-up period, so it does not go at 100 miles an hour on day one. Karratha Health Campus has been operational for a couple of months now, so it is probably getting towards the point at which it can meet its full capacity. From that perspective, we can understand that those services will come onstream as required. I can confirm that it is not a result of any sort of funding restrictions around that and that this is simply an operational issue. I think we can anticipate those beds coming into operation in the very near future.

In terms of the third part of the question, which refers to Northam hospital, I can confirm that there are delays there. This is a result of Pindan, I think, which is the builder, facing some financial difficulties, which requires extra oversight of the project management. The same is being experienced, but for different reasons, at Onslow and, I think, Narrogin. I will clarify those in the next 24 to 48 hours.