

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PERFORMANCE

**108. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Premier, what further crisis in our health system would prompt you to strip the health minister of his non-health portfolios or is his job guaranteed no matter what?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The member is asking me a hypothetical question about something that has not happened. But in any event, Madam Speaker, it is a difficult portfolio. What we are doing is a whole range of improvements to the system, and additional employment of staff and capital upgrades to deal with what we are confronting. Western Australia as a state actually spends more per capita on health than any other state in Australia—our spend on health is 18 per cent above the national average. The fact of the matter is that we are doing that. We have put in place better facilities all over Western Australia to deal with the issues that we confront, and that will continue. Obviously, we will bring down a budget later this year, and, as always, the health budget will increase, and we will do more in the area of mental health as well.