

MIDLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL

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

We heard the Leader of the Opposition speak last week about the concept of developing metropolitan hubs. Can the minister please inform the Parliament how the new Midland Public Hospital will contribute to Midland, particularly as a precinct?

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

It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition suddenly comes up with the new concept of “hubs”. It was interesting to hear the member for Bassendean in his speech last week—sadly, I do not think my interjection was recorded—trying to claim some sort of credit for the new Midland hospital. At that time he was only dreaming about being in Parliament.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** We got the federal funding for it, and you know that.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** That is absolutely not true! I am so glad the member said that, because we got that funding not only for Midland Public Hospital, but also the other centre.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Federal Labor funded it!

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** It was the federal Labor government, not the state Labor government. The member for Midland is trying to claim credit for it.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** We can take up that point later.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The member for Bassendean was only dreaming about being a member of Parliament at that stage. I will tell the members what happened, just to put the record straight. When we were in opposition and the state Labor government was promising to redevelop Swan District Hospital on the existing site, in the lead-up to the state election we announced that we would build a brand-new hospital in Midland. Guess what? Four weeks later, in the lead-up to the 2008 election, the Labor government suddenly changed its policy, which was a bit like what it did with the poor old member for Albany. Alan Carpenter was running down to Albany in the last week of the campaign, promising that his government would build a new hospital because that is what we had promised. The Carpenter government was going to refurbish the old hospital.

Midland Public Hospital will be a hub for Midland; it will create a great precinct with 307 public beds, 60 private beds, and provide a large number of local employment opportunities. There will be an increase of 50 per cent in employment numbers compared with the old hospital. This will be a great contributor to Midland.

I recall what happened 20 years ago when I was a councillor in the City of Bayswater. As a collective group of councillors, we developed the Morley precinct. We negotiated with developers of Morley Galleria. We changed the zoning for that whole region and increased zoning density around the railway station for Embleton and Morley Galleria.

Several members interjected.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The member should be on her feet calling a point of order, but she is too late because I am finished!

We were planning those things 20 years ago, and now the Labor Party has suddenly got this bright idea, “Let’s have some hubs!”