

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SCANNER

815. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister stop playing politics and accept that generous offer to provide a machine in Western Australia?

Mr KUCERA replied:

The member for Murdoch is asking me to accept a second-hand grubby little deal for the children of this State. He is trying to blackmail all the members who sit on the government benches into accepting a second-hand deal. The member for Murdoch's federal colleague Senator Kay Patterson said yesterday that the committee, which has already said that our children have a 10 per cent greater need, will meet in two weeks. How could I or the Government face the children of this State if I signed a grubby little blackmail deal like that? If, in two weeks, that committee agreed that Princess Margaret Hospital for Children needed a magnetic resonance imaging scanner and offered us a machine, I would have to admit that I followed one of the Opposition's typical backroom deals. I would be denying the children of this State the equipment that they truly deserve. The member for Murdoch is a disgrace.