

MIDLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL

1011. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Health:

Can the minister please advise what the St John of God Midland Public Hospital will mean for people in the Midland area, particularly given the criticism from the opposition, which I read with great disappointment?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

I thank the member for the question. I had great pleasure being with him and other members of Parliament to have the Premier open the new public hospital in Midland. Interestingly, in the lead-up to that day, we saw the opposition active in putting out negative comments about the hospital, saying it had done a survey and that a huge number of people were against it. It was really interesting to see —

Mr N.W. Morton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield, I call you to order for the first time.

Dr K.D. HAMES: When we had finished doing all the presentations and so on, the official photographs had been taken and we had got off the podium and were initially standing in front of the plaque bearing the Premier's name, all the Labor members got up and had a big smiley picture taken. Now, they have put that smiley picture of all the Labor Party members out through the media—they were very happy to be part of it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr K.D. HAMES: Then Labor Party members try to take credit for the hospital.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Forrestfield, I call you to order for the second time. We are getting the wall of noise from both sides.

Dr K.D. HAMES: This Labor Party document states —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle, I call you to order for the first time. I can see this is going to be really slow going today. Let us try to set the reset button.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The document states —

Our Labor crew were out in force at the opening of the St John of God Midland Public Hospital. It's a great achievement —

That is absolutely right; it is a great achievement —

and we take some pride in it —

This is the Labor Party! The document continues —

—Labor committed to a new hospital in Midland under Geoff Gallop ...

I remind members of the opposition that the Liberal Party was the first party to commit to the new hospital in Midland. I went out as opposition spokesperson on health at least a month before —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members for Midland and Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The Labor Party was going to redevelop Swan District Hospital. The first public statement about the hospital was made by the Liberal Party in 2008. There is no credit there for Labor Party members.

Mr P.T. Miles interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the second time.

Dr K.D. HAMES: They want to take credit for the fact that federal Labor put in \$180 million for the project in 2009. That is very true, but the way it all came about was that the Howard government had created a future fund. The Labor government decided to raid that future fund and give all the money to the states. We saw loads of money going to every other state in Australia, so we put in a request—the state Liberal–National government—for \$180 million to make up the total amount of money we needed, and we got that approval from the federal Labor Party for that money that we requested for the project. We put in the proposal that it be done in

conjunction with the private sector and the federal Labor minister agreed to that funding and the way in which we were going to do it as a public-private partnership. The opposition goes out and criticises that and it talks about a poll that was done in the member for Bassendean's electorate showing that 70 per cent of people were opposed to the private sector involvement in the public hospital. However, we just happened to see a comment by Mr Zempilas on leaked research on the poll results from the Labor Party polling in one of its safe seats. I do not know why it does that; it is a bit strange. At the last election, the member for Bassendean got 55.14 per cent of the two-party preferred vote, but now the poll has him at only 54.4 per cent, so his vote has gone down. If 70 per cent of the people in his electorate do not like what this Liberal-National government is doing right next to his electorate, why on earth has his vote gone down? Why on earth is the Labor vote going down in one of its key seats? I point to the rest of opposition members on that side: the opposition have got such a narrow pool of talent that if the opposition were a pond and I jumped in it, I would not even get my feet wet!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Willagee has the call.