

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL — TAB SALE

407. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the government's commitment to 65 per cent of the proceeds from the TAB sale as a down payment for a new women's and children's hospital. Will this hospital be built regardless of whether the project receives funds from the sale of the TAB?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. We put over \$3 million of planning money into the state budget for a new women's and babies' hospital. Obviously, we need to move King Edward Memorial Hospital, or whatever it will be named in the future, to the QEII site, which is in proximity to the new Perth Children's Hospital and some of the path—pathological services. Pathological?

Ms M.J. Davies: Pathology. I can help, Premier!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Pathology—the pathology and other scientific services that are available on that site; sorry for the slip. Also, it means that if there is an emergency, the women and children do not have to be placed in an ambulance and taken from King Edward Memorial Hospital to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. So there is a whole range of improvements that come about as a consequence of that. We determined that when we sell the TAB, for which we have legislation in the house today, 35 per cent, as agreed with the industry, will go into racing infrastructure around the state. We then determined that the remaining proceeds would go towards a new women's and babies' hospital. I think it is a marvellous thing to make a down payment on. Clearly, the government's intention is to build a new women's and babies' hospital. Obviously, securing money from the TAB sale will make it an easier proposition to do it more quickly.