

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS

578. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to putting patients first by investing in Peel Health Campus, which was neglected by the previous Liberal–National government. Can the minister outline to the house how the government's upgrade to the hospital will further support the delivery of high-class patient care and enhance access to emergency services for the people of my community and right across the Peel region?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. As she and all members know, the last government did absolutely nothing for Peel hospital. In its eight and a half years in this place, it spent nothing on the hospital. The last major investment was by the Carpenter Labor government. Another Labor government is now beginning the investment cycle to make sure that Peel hospital gets the resources its needs for the community it serves.

I want to acknowledge the member for Murray–Wellington and the member for Mandurah, who joined the Premier and me at Peel hospital last week to make this important announcement. The announcement was that plans had been finalised to transform the Peel Health Campus emergency department and to expand the hospital's short-day unit following a \$5 million investment by the McGowan government. The member for Mandurah and I have spent quite a bit of time at the ED at Peel hospital. We understand that that ED is working really hard to meet the demand at the hospital. We know that the waiting area for Peel residents is not up to scratch, so this is an important investment. The investment will go towards a new fast-track area to improve patient triage; new holding bays designed for more privacy for patients awaiting inpatient admission; the reconfiguration of the existing triage area to facilitate early senior medical review and improve patient privacy and comfort; the redesign of the emergency department waiting room; and the addition of seven beds to the short-stay unit to further streamline patient flow through the emergency department. In addition to this investment, we have already invested \$4.4 million, which will add an extra 225 car bays to the hospital and improve security and patient call systems, and make sure that we have a building maintenance program that meets the needs of that hospital.

The member for Dawesville was a senior staff member in the last government, so it is interesting that he had oversight of a period of absolute neglect of that hospital. Maybe he had an eye on a different seat. Nevertheless, the people of Peel and Dawesville are saddled with him. That is good, because he can go there and explain to them day after day why the Barnett government did not see fit to spend any money on Peel hospital. The McGowan Labor government will put patients first. We will put the patients of Peel first and make sure that we get the upgrade so that the ED can meet the needs of that community. We will continue to have conversations with my good friends in the commonwealth government about their commitments to the area to see what that means. We obviously look forward to seeing that extra money come to the hospital and other health services in the area. The McGowan government is here and the investment in Peel hospital is back on track.