

ALBANY RADIOTHERAPY SERVICE

879. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. I take it from the minister's answer that the facility will not be operational by June 2019. Can the minister give an undertaking to this house and the people of Albany and the great southern that the McGowan Labor government has a commitment to improving cancer treatment for the patients affected in that region?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

We are certainly committed to having a look to make sure that it makes sense. I mean, obviously the health department goes through exhaustive processes around clinical planning and to make sure that it makes sense to put the services where they are needed. I understand the federal member for that area has got political ambitions. I am sure they are related to the political cycle that we are in. As we have observed before, you can front up with a bit of cash to buy the equipment, but there is a vast amount of expenses associated with that. But we will certainly keep having a look at that and make sure that if a viable business case can be put around it, we get on board pretty quick smart.

There is, of course, another element to this, and that is a private sector firm to run it. Genesis Cancer Care is having a look at it themselves, and obviously the department will work closely with Genesis and with the federal government to make sure that there is an appropriate outcome.