

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — HELIPAD

483. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Health:

On behalf of the member for Forrestfield, I acknowledge and welcome the year 7 leadership group and the principal from Maida Vale Primary School in the Speaker's gallery today.

I notice that testing of the Fiona Stanley public hospital helipad occurred recently, with the first landing of an emergency helicopter on site. With this in mind, could the minister please update the house on the progress of works at Fiona Stanley Hospital?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

I first acknowledge and welcome to the chamber the wonderful students from Halls Head Primary School and their teacher Mr Beckingham. Thanks, Mr Speaker, even though I did not get to ask you, for letting them sit up there.

We recently had the pleasure of going to watch the first helicopter landing at the new Fiona Stanley Hospital, and it was very impressive. The helicopter came in from all directions to see the effect of winds and to make sure that helicopters can land safely from every direction. All the noise and vibration monitors were up in the hospital. The pad itself is situated on a bed of rubber so that it mitigates any vibration that affects the hospital. It is located right above the operating theatres and the emergency department with a special lift to take people down. It is the only helipad outside the CBD and patients who need urgent treatment, particularly burns patients or cardiothoracic patients, both of which will be located at the new hospital, will be taken especially to that hospital. Also, for those members in the south west, if we get urgent cases and the patients desperately need critical care and treatment, they will stop at the first available hospital as they come north, which will be Fiona Stanley.

The hospital is going very well; it is 94 per cent complete at this stage. I have to say that it is looking amazing; it is looking extremely good. The hospital is going very well; it will open, as we said, in October.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park!

Dr K.D. HAMES: It will provide state-of-the-art treatment for people in Western Australia. We are very proud of what has happened at the hospital. I well recall the promises under Labor. Every single year it was delayed by a year, so we had four consecutive years of delay under the previous Labor government for the opening time from 2010. In the lead-up to the 2008 election, the Minister for Health at the time went there and some bulldozing was done. Almost none of the work had been done and it was nowhere near ready to be progressed. Certainly, not enough money was put aside to do the job. Two billion dollars has been committed to build the new hospital. I think it will be the great pride of this government when it is completed.