

WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE

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

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, minister. I will take the minister up on that offer of providing the detail of the directive. I wonder whether he could also include the deadline that he has set for WACHS to provide an adequate solution or whether he might have that information with him today.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

The WA Country Health Service is always working on this particular issue. I know that it is putting in a bigger effort now as a result of the work that we have done in government to try to make sure that our country hospitals have the staff they need. It is not a piece of work that will stop tomorrow. It will continue, as will the work that we will do to modernise our hospitals, including the installation of an MRI machine at Kalgoorlie Health Campus, which will be a great benefit to that community so that the 1 200 patients who travel each year from Kalgoorlie to Perth to access those services will no longer have to make that arduous journey. We will continue to invest in country health services. As the member will be aware, an important part of that investment is to invest in people.