

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES

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

I understand that the new Fiona Stanley Hospital will be one of six public hospitals in Perth that will have dedicated paediatric beds to support Perth Children's Hospital. Can the minister explain to the house how children and their families in my electorate and the southern suburbs will be catered for at Fiona Stanley Hospital?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

I thank the member for the question. His area and, in fact, the whole area south of the river will be well catered for by the additional services for children at Fiona Stanley Hospital. I was there today to look at those facilities. They are absolutely magnificent. The quality of the wards and the facilities there are absolutely excellent, and 83 per cent of the rooms will be single rooms. There will be a separate emergency department area for children, with a playground in the area. That area will feed into the dedicated paediatric ward. There will be an increase on the 21 beds in total currently at Fremantle. There will be 29 beds in total at Fiona Stanley Hospital, with all the dedicated staff to go with that. In fact, we are talking to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children staff about providing outreach services and even tertiary services such as oncology in a hospital that provides secondary care. Although Fiona Stanley Hospital is a tertiary hospital, it is only a secondary hospital for services such as paediatrics and obstetrics, but we will have outreach services for the tertiary care.

There will be a small play area out in the open at the end of the ward for children in the ward or for visiting families who have to work out what to do with their other kids who are pulling the place down! These children will now be able to go to this very secure outdoor area.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Dr K.D. HAMES: The local contractors working under Brookfield Multiplex, which is undertaking the whole construction project, put their hands in their pockets and provided \$450 000 to create first-class facilities for those children. I was there today, and I hope members will see it on TV tonight.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I hope so; I look forward to that.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The Premier can look forward to seeing that really excellent facility. We had the discussion before about beds at the new Children's Hospital. People will see that the hospitals around that peripheral rim, such as Fiona Stanley Hospital, provide a quality, dedicated children's service. The first-class quality of care they provide is such that there is no way people would want to bypass this hospital to get to another hospital if they have a sick child. I am very much looking forward to that service being available.