

KALAMUNDA DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, REDEVELOPMENT

120.Mr J.H.D. DAY to the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to the Labor Party's election promise, which was signed by the now Premier, to complete the \$5.5 million redevelopment of Kalamunda District Community Hospital and the minister's written confirmation in May this year that \$2.226 million had been allocated in the current financial year.

- (1) Why is the minister now saying to the people of the Kalamunda and Midland regions that there are more pressing priorities in health at this point?
- (2) Is the minister not aware that funding to deal with the current crisis in nursing numbers and waiting lists is separate from the capital works budget for health?
- (3) When will the construction of the redevelopment of Kalamunda District Community Hospital begin, if at all?
- (4) Will the minister guarantee the people of the Kalamunda region that obstetric services at their hospital will be fully upgraded as promised?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(4) I wrote to the member for Darling Range the other day advising him of the Government's priorities. Unless he has been absolutely blind and deaf in the past couple of weeks, he would realise that there are enormous pressures on our emergency hospitals, and they are the principal priority for the Government of the day.

I congratulate the member for Darling Range on initiating the Douglas inquiry. That has put enormous pressures on the Government in terms of obstetric services. A very clear and positive planning process for obstetric services is occurring at the moment, in which Swan District and Kalamunda District Community Hospitals are taking part. I have already said that those issues come first and the supply of obstetric services is a priority.

In terms of any guarantees, it is all part of the planning process, as I have said on a number of occasions. When those planning processes and the systems to deal with obstetric services that arise out of the Douglas inquiry are complete, any renovation or rebuilding that is necessary will take place in accordance with the Swan Health Service, which includes both Swan District and Kalamunda District Community Hospitals.