

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — MINISTER FOR HEALTH

841. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the extraordinary letter from the Minister for Health to the Leader of the Opposition, seeking to thwart the opposition's scrutiny of the government's questionable decision to take practical completion of the Perth Children's Hospital now 29 weeks, or 203 days, ago. I, therefore, am compelled to ask —

- (1) Noting that the Minister for Health's reply to question without notice 638 in the Legislative Assembly yesterday conceded that the letter was sent without seeking legal advice, was the letter drafted by a departmental officer, a ministerial adviser or by the minister himself?
- (2) In addition to remediating the issue of lead in the water, what actual progress has been made in remediating the sundry outstanding defects identified by Dr Lawrence of the Child and Adolescent Health Service at the Legislative Council estimates hearing on 20 October?
- (3) When is the hospital going to open?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The letter was drafted by ministerial staff, incorporating departmental input with the benefit of extensive previous briefings and reports.
- (2) The health service is unable to provide a response within the allocated time frame and, as such, I request the member place this part of the question on notice.
- (3) The hospital will not open until assurance is received from the Chief Health Officer that the potable water supply is safe. As the minister has highlighted previously, it is anticipated to provide the public with an opening time line this month, November 2017.