

MURDOCH MEDIHOTEL

**564. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion "WA Recovery Plan", which includes a significant investment in infrastructure and services that put patients first.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what this government investment in a medihotel at Murdoch will mean for those who are discharged from hospital but may require ongoing care?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this investment will help free up hospital beds and ensure more patients can be treated?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. It was great to be with the member for Bicton and the member for Jandakot on the weekend to announce the funding in relation to the Murdoch medihotel. This is a great development and comes as part of the McGowan government's recovery package, which is about getting Western Australians back to work, continuing to see the economy recover, and making sure that Western Australians enjoy the benefits of their hard work of getting the COVID-19 disease under control. It was great to be with the member for Bicton on Saturday to announce the new 80-bed Murdoch medihotel as part of our health and knowledge precinct. This is underpinned by a funding commitment, some of which comes from the recovery package, of \$55.5 million for the operation of the new medihotel. The medihotel will be run in conjunction with our partners, Aegis Aged Care and the Fini Group, as part of this \$200 million precinct, which they will get down to building today. They are out there, making sure that this shovel-ready project will bring construction work and great opportunities for Western Australians to be employed on this important project.

As the Minister for Health, I am delighted that we will see this comprehensive medical facility established next to St John of God Murdoch, and of course Fiona Stanley Hospital. As part of this 80-bed medihotel facility, we will also see comprehensive primary healthcare services located on the one site, including an urgent care clinic with minor trauma rooms, and general practitioner services such as a pharmacy, imaging and pathology. The development, as part of this world-leading precinct, will also offer chronic disease prevention and management, rehabilitation, and life skills training to divert people from hospital, decrease hospital admissions, and prevent patient readmission. We expect the medihotel will divert around 4 500 patients a year from the hospital. That will be a huge benefit to the ED, but it will also be of great benefit to those patients who will not need to be therefore accommodated in a busy acute hospital.

This obviously is part of a commitment that we made at the last election. It is great to see this election commitment come alive as part of a comprehensive health precinct that will see \$200 million worth of private investment brought to this precinct. We thank the Fini Group for its commitment around the build. We particularly thank Aegis Aged Care, which will be operating the medihotel on behalf of the people of Western Australia, in conjunction with the aged-care facility that it will have on that site. It is an exciting development. It means jobs and better health care. Once again, the McGowan government is putting patients first.