

BUNBURY HOSPITAL

595. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's investment in hospitals across regional WA, including more than a \$22 million commitment to upgrade Bunbury Hospital.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this redevelopment will ensure the hospital can continue to provide high-class health care to the fast-growing communities of Bunbury and the south west?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this investment will ensure more patients in the south west can be treated closer to where they live?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I am delighted to provide this answer to the member for Bunbury because there has, seriously, never been a better champion for the people of Bunbury than the member who currently sits in this place.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: Our commitment to Bunbury Hospital is yet another example of the infrastructure spend that is going on in our country health service. It is going to a hospital that richly deserves it. Bunbury Hospital is one of the busiest sites in regional WA, particularly during the school holiday periods, and it has a long tradition of providing high-quality health care to the people of Western Australia. The Premier recently announced an additional \$11.8 million for the Bunbury Hospital redevelopment, adding to the \$11 million already committed in the state budget, delivering on the important election community to grow the Bunbury regional hospital. This announcement goes some way to addressing one of the recommendations of the sustainable health review to address pressure at Bunbury Hospital.

The additional funding will deliver construction of an additional operating theatre, reconfiguration of the emergency department fast-track area, establishment of an acute medical assessment unit, implementation of a mental health observation area, expanded capacity of the ICU, increased parking bays for the site, and improved Hospital in the Home and telehealth capability at community locations. There can be no more deserving country health service facility than Bunbury Hospital. It provides outstanding service, along with St John of God Bunbury Hospital, which is part of the partnership with the public health facility on that campus. It has been operating since 1999 and reflects the increasing demands upon the health services at the hospital, which are expected to grow not only in line with population forecasts, but also as tourism continues to expand in the south west. I am very proud to be part of a McGowan Labor government that continues to invest in country health services and country hospitals. We will continue to put patients first.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Mr Speaker.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mount Lawley.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: My question —

The SPEAKER: Sorry, I got it the wrong way around. Member for Carine.