

AMBULANCE RAMPING

**316. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. What responsibility does the Premier take as Premier and Treasurer, with a record budget surplus two years in a row, for record ramping figures at our hospitals and health failures that constitute a crisis that we have never seen before after five years of him being the Premier?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

As Premier and Treasurer, I always take responsibility for everything that happens in government, and that is why we have in place the strongest spend in health per capita of any government in Australia. What happens is that the Productivity Commission puts out a report, I think it is once a year, and it analyses —

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** You do not listen! The Nationals and Liberals do not listen and they do not know anything—that is the truth of it. They do not listen and they do not know anything. No wonder the federal colleagues of both parties have nothing to do with you!

The truth of it is that we have put more into health per capita than any other government in Australia, except, perhaps, the ACT, but we cannot really count it. We have put more into it than any other government in Australia. The Productivity Commission does a report. It looks at the global spend on population. We have put in 13 per cent above the national average. One would assume that Melbourne, Sydney and Victoria are around the national average and other states are below the national average. We are above the national average by 13 per cent per capita. When the Leader of the Opposition asks, “Why aren’t you spending enough?”, we are spending more than any other state in Australia. But, we do confront a range of situations that are unprecedented going back to 1919. They are unprecedented in anyone’s memory—I put it that way. No-one can remember the Spanish flu. It was obviously a bad situation—I would not want to downplay that one—but no-one has been through anything like this since 1919, yet our health professionals, our health system and the people who work in it have been doing a terrific job in difficult circumstances.