

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — LEAD CONTAMINATION

669. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's comments this morning that the source of the lead at the new Perth Children's Hospital is not from within the hospital.

- (1) Is the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre the source of the lead?
- (2) If no to (1), what is the source of the lead and what advice exactly has the Premier received?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)–(2) It is my understanding that the source of the lead—they are very small levels of lead that have been detected, but lead is nevertheless a serious issue—is not from within the hospital itself. Again, as the Treasurer has said—I know the opposition does not like it—it is a construction site —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: This is the question the Leader of the Opposition had to run around to get the member to ask because he would not ask it himself. You run your own messages in here.

It is not within —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: If you wanted to ask the question, why did you not ask it yourself, instead of running around and getting him to ask it for you? Make up your mind. Do you want to ask it?

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the first time. We have had a question through the Chair, thank you.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The advice I have—it is preliminary—is that the source of the lead is not within the new Perth Children's Hospital; neither is it from QEII. This is, as the Treasurer advised, a construction site. All sorts of equipment and provisions are put in place on a construction site; it is not a finished hospital. I will wait until the confirmation comes through and that will be made public, but it is my understanding that it is not from within the children's hospital and it is not from anything within the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Because it is a construction site, there is machinery and equipment, and temporary arrangements in place. That is what a construction site is like.