

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS REFORM COUNCIL — REPORT

412. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Health:

On behalf of the member for Perth, I acknowledge the Rotary Club of North Perth in the public gallery, and on behalf of the member for Kingsley, I acknowledge the students from Woodvale Secondary College in the public gallery.

Can the Minister for Health please inform the house of the results of the recently released Council of Australian Governments Reform Council report on the National Healthcare Agreement health outcomes?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

I would love to do that if I could find the papers. The report comparing hospitals in Western Australia with hospitals in other states was released today and it had some good and bad components to it. The good components relate to the performance of this state compared with others. I was going to go through each of those and detail exactly what they were, but I cannot do so without my notes. They were very good in terms of —

Ms M.M. Quirk: You can put out a press release if you want, minister.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I know you are trying to help the minister.

Dr K.D. HAMES: It showed that Western Australia performed significantly better than other states in a range of areas. We were equal top in Australia with an average 30-day wait for elective surgery. It showed significant improvements in times for treating patients and getting them through elective surgery. However, we are not doing as well in some areas. The report compared not only our hospitals with other states' hospitals, but also the whole health system—for example, GP waiting times. The time people wait in Western Australia for a GP has got worse and not better. Overall, the health system in Western Australia is going very well. On the one hand, the lack of GPs makes things very difficult for us, but, as I have said in the past, this state has gone from being one of the worst in comparison with other states in Australia to being one of the best, and the report released today confirms that.