

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS — MIDLAND

401. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Premier:

Before I ask my question, I would like to acknowledge principal Rod Simeons and the leadership team from Aveley Primary School in my electorate who are in the public gallery today.

I refer to the recent announcement that the eastern suburbs will have a new Midland campus. What benefits will this bring to Midland, the wider east metropolitan region and regional Western Australia?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question. I know the member and his constituents, and all those people living in Midland in the eastern suburbs, will be delighted and are delighted by the announcement over the weekend. At the last state election, the Liberal Party made a commitment —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

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

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Do you want to be called for the second time on the same voice?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: At the last state election, the Liberal Party made a commitment that it would work to achieve a university campus in the eastern suburbs. We made a commitment to provide land for the campus. That site has been identified and is probably worth \$5 million. We also made a commitment to provide \$22 million to Curtin University to build the campus. That commitment will be delivered; it is now committed. I was pleased —

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: How negative they are!

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Butler, I do not want to hear from you either.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: In the discussions with Curtin University at the time, it also had an objective to develop a new medical school for Western Australia, particularly to train general practitioners to work in rural country areas and outer suburban areas. The two came together and the final piece in that jigsaw was to get the commonwealth government to take long-term responsibility for the training places, university placements, of medical students. Those negotiations have gone on, particularly over the last six months. The commitment by the Prime Minister means that the state will contribute land plus \$22 million and take responsibility for internships. After 2022, the commonwealth will start to fully fund places at the university. Curtin will put \$67 million into the construction of the campus buildings and so on.

This is a great outcome for Western Australia. It is a fact that on a per capita basis Western Australia is short 950 doctors. If we look at the composition across Australia, 26 per cent of doctors are overseas trained; in Western Australia, it is 38 per cent, and many of those come from developing countries. That is not acceptable for a First World nation like Australia or a prosperous state like Western Australia.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

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

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker —

Mr B.J. Grylls interjected.

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

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I do not want to hear any more from you.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I also make the point that although much of the debate has been the disagreement between the Australian Medical Association and the state and federal governments, this is more than a medical school. This is a campus to provide, for the first time, tertiary education into the eastern suburbs of Perth. The rate of access to tertiary education in the eastern suburbs is far lower than in the rest of the metropolitan area. Although it is yet to be decided, the courses that Curtin and the state government expect to see delivered are not only medicine but also nursing, other health sciences, education, business and engineering. They are all courses that will be delivered in the eastern suburbs. Why is the Labor Party so disappointed? It jeers and heckles one of the

big achievements for medicine and healthcare in Western Australia's history. What a great opportunity for young people in the eastern suburbs to have direct access to tertiary education. There is only one disappointed group—the opposition!