

JOONDALUP SUBACUTE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

**449. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:**

Budget paper No 2 reads —

Due to delays in receiving licensing approval, the Joondalup sub-acute unit did not commence operation until May 2013.”

Yesterday, in question time, the minister said —

No licensing approval delays delayed the commencement of operations at the new Joondalup subacute service.

Are the budget papers wrong or has the minister misled the house?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Obviously, what I was saying to the member, which I will just go over again, was that the actual time that the licensing was put in for approval did not delay the opening of the facility. What occurred was that the time that the licensing was put in for approval was the thing that took the time for the facility to open in May. We opened it in January; its construction was mostly completed at that time. Neami Ltd had only just taken —

**Hon Sally Talbot:** Were there licensing approval delays?

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** The honourable member should let me finish!

**Hon Sally Talbot** interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** If the member really wants the answer, she will let me finish—that is, if she really wants the answer. I do not know if she does!

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Minister, I want the answer, and if you deliver it through the Chair, everybody gets it without any opportunities or excuse to interject.

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** Thank you, Mr President, because this is an important issue. We opened the facility in January. It was mostly finished at that time. I think that Neami had some areas that still needed to be changed or improved. Then, of course, it had the responsibility to put in the request for licensing. The time at which that happened was the time the delays were occurring. Once the licensing approval was sought, that was not delayed. If I recall rightly, the answer was something like —

*Point of Order*

**Hon SALLY TALBOT:** I know it is difficult, generally with questions without notice, but the budget papers say “Due to delays in receiving licensing approval”; I am asking the minister whether that is correct.

**The PRESIDENT:** I do not believe there is a point of order. I heard the minister trying to explain something around the approval of licences. I think it is appropriate if she explains that issue to the house.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** I will just finish up by saying that the period of time it took to get the licensing in for approval was the amount of time taken between the time that we were there in May. But once the licensing approvals were put in place, they were handled very, very quickly.