

HOSPITAL STAFF

Statement

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [6.20 pm]: I intend to make only a very brief statement this evening. Last year, I exited this chamber abruptly on Thursday, 24 November, shortly before the conclusion of question time. The reason for that is that I was suffering from a then undiagnosed episode of acute appendicitis. I presented myself as a private patient at the Hollywood Private Hospital emergency department and was quickly seen to, given immediate pain relief and scanned and the like. I was, however, subsequently transferred some hours later to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, owing to there being no anaesthetist rostered on in the evening at Hollywood.

First and foremost, I want to thank the doctors and nurses who attended me initially at Hollywood and the two paramedics who, I thought quite humorously, transferred me some 100 metres by ambulance from Hollywood to Charlies in what was a memorably bumpy and uncomfortable ride. I also want to acknowledge the well wishes that I received from members on both sides of the house during my very short stay.

The time from my initial presentation to the completion of my surgery was approximately 30 hours. I want to record my appreciation to the fresh surgical team that operated on me the following Friday evening after I presented on Thursday. I also want to acknowledge the beleaguered, I would say, surgical team at Charlies who, throughout the day of 25 November, attempted to schedule a surgery for me and then attempted to have me transferred elsewhere but could not do so. Beyond that, I want to sincerely acknowledge and put on record my sincere gratitude to the nurses working on wards G62 and G63 at Charlies who took such excellent care of me personally and my fellow patients on the wards to which I was admitted.

I am reflecting on this not to just acknowledge my personal appreciation, but this episode coincided with the unprecedented industrial action taken by nurses on 25 November. I just want to record from the vantage point only as a patient from the perspective of my bed, that I thought the nurses who were working that day, who supported their colleagues taking industrial action, took the most exemplary and professional care of me and those with whom I shared my ward. Their sheer superhuman professionalism and dedication to service demands ongoing respect, and they certainly earned my undiminished and undiminishing eternal gratitude. I just want to say that our nurses are worth their weight in gold, and I would caution anybody from taking their service and commitment to the people of Western Australia for granted. Thank you.