

WARWICK DENTAL CLINIC, PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION

**835. Ms QUIRK to the Minister for Health:**

In the light of the closure of the Perth Dental Hospital late last year, will the minister advise the House on the progress of construction to increase the capacity of Warwick Dental Clinic?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I thank the member for Girrawheen for her efforts in her electorate on health, and particularly dental health, issues.

The Perth Dental Hospital site was closed to patients from 1 January 2002, at which time the state-of-the-art Oral Health Centre of Western Australia was opened. The establishment of the OHCWA was a key recommendation of the review of the public provision of dental services in Western Australia, which was released in August 1997. It was never intended that the OHCWA would replace all the functions of Perth Dental Hospital. That is why the services available through a range of suburban clinics are fundamental to the delivery of public dental health services.

Mr Board interjected.

Mr KUCERA: In reply to the smart interjection by the member for Murdoch, there has not yet been an official opening of the OHCWA. I assure the member for Murdoch that I will acknowledge the member for Darling Range when that occurs.

Extended services were not able to immediately come on line at the Warwick site because an existing tenancy had to be relocated. I am pleased to announce that the construction at the Warwick clinic is nearing completion. The new service is scheduled to be in operation by the beginning of May. The clinic's operational capacity will be increased from 10 chairs to 18. This will represent treatment for an additional 5 000 patients a year, bringing the clinic's total capacity to between 11 000 and 12 000 patients a year. The opening of this expanded service at Warwick is another step in the provision of real choice to public dental patients, by providing improved services closer to where they live.