

ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL — DAY SURGERY CENTRE

350. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to the allocation of \$4.4 million from the federal government to establish a day surgery centre in Albany, and to recent media reports that the money will now be used as part of the budget to construct a hospital in Albany.

- (1) Given that this money was allocated for the immediate relief of patients waiting for elective surgery, why will Albany people need to wait four years to get this much-needed service?
- (2) Is the use of this grant as part of the hospital budget in breach of the \$4.4 million grant?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Albany Regional Hospital currently provides a day surgery service and will continue to offer this service into the future. The \$4.4 million Australian government grant will enhance day surgery services at Albany Regional Hospital for the benefit of all the communities of the great southern. The construction of the new day surgery facility is being incorporated into the building of the new hospital in Albany. This will integrate with the broad range of enhanced services that will become available with the new facility.
- (2) No. This is not a breach of the agreement. The Australian government has been consulted on this investment of funds.