

1/9

C693

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday 9 August 2022

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health

My question without notice of which some notice has been given is to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health

I refer to Legislative Council question without notice 522 regarding the Geraldton Radiation Oncology Unit and I ask:

1. Given that the Minister has confirmed that the total project cost exceeds the budgeted amount by \$10 million have you written to the new Federal Government seeking additional funds;
2. Please table the two letters and any reply from the Federal Government as identified by you in the aforementioned question;
3. How has the project been identified as 'New Works' and \$2.7 million allocated in 2022-23 with an estimated total cost of \$9 million when you have now admitted that the project requires an additional \$10 million in funding; and
4. Has the Minister asked the Treasurer for some of his enormous budget surplus to help pay for this proposal in the interest of patient health in the Mid West?

Answer

1. No. Representatives from WA Health are liaising with the Federal Department of Health on this matter currently, and I will be writing to the Federal Minister for Health on this issue.
2. I table the attached letters and reply from the Federal Government.
3. The \$2.7m allocation in 2022/23 is a provision of the \$9.0m provided by the Commonwealth Government via the Commonwealth Health and Hospital Program. The project relies on a further allocation of \$10 million.
4. The Minister continues to liaise with the Treasurer to progress key health infrastructure projects. These deliberations are Cabinet-in-Confidence.

Handwritten signature: M.L. with a large flourish below it.



**The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

Our Ref: 60-26298

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister *Greg,*

I received correspondence from Mr Ian Blayney MLA, State Member for Geraldton dated 23 April 2020 regarding concerns raised by a constituent in relation to the cost of travel to access radiation oncology treatment and advocating for the establishment of a radiation therapy centre at Geraldton Health Campus (GHC).

In response to the Commonwealth Government's 2019 election commitment of \$9 million in capital funding for the establishment of radiation oncology services in Geraldton, WA Country Health Service (WACHS) undertook high level costings of the project, based on the cost of delivering radiation oncology services at Albany Health Campus. These costings indicate they will require much closer to \$20 million to develop and operationalise the service.

WACHS has now commenced a feasibility study to understand the full costs associated with development and operation of radiation oncology at the GHC. The findings of this study will provide more accurate costings of the project and inform further funding submissions. I will commit to provide you with further information on the shortfall of Commonwealth funding required once the feasibility study is completed.

I urge the Commonwealth Government to commit to fully funding this project to honour your election commitment to the Midwest.

Yours sincerely

**HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the
Public Service and Cabinet

2
RECEIVED

30 JUL 2020

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Ref No: MC20-024507

The Hon Mr Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health
13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

21 JUL 2020

Dear Deputy Premier *Roger*

I refer to your letter of 3 June 2020 on behalf of Mr Ian Blayney MLA, Member for Geraldton concerning the cost of travel to access radiation oncology treatment and the establishment of a radiation therapy centre at the Geraldton Health Campus.

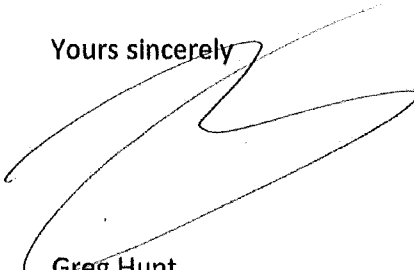
The Australian Government is committed to ensuring Australians can access quality health care where and when they need it. The Government will continue to deliver vital infrastructure and services that regional communities need to prosper.

As you are aware, the Project Agreement between the Commonwealth and the state of Western Australia (WA) for Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) initiatives was finalised on 25 May 2020, bringing the total contribution from the Commonwealth to WA through the CHHP to \$121.9 million over seven years. As requested by WA through the CHHP Expression of Interest process, this Project Agreement includes \$25.1 million in Commonwealth funding for the WA Country Health Service Cancer Strategy Implementation initiative, which includes the establishment of radiation oncology treatment services at the Geraldton Health Campus.

As outlined in the Project Agreement, WA is to provide the Commonwealth with an implementation plan outlining how you intend to deliver the cancer strategy by July 2021. At this time, WA may consider submitting a plan to my Department outlining how you will successfully deliver both components of this project, which could include the realignment of your current activities based on priority. The CHHP is now fully committed and there are no additional funds available.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely


Greg Hunt

cc: The Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government



**The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

Our Ref: 4-123467

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister

Greg

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) has received \$9 million Commonwealth Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) for infrastructure to support a radiation oncology treatment service in Geraldton. Based on a similar infrastructure project at Albany it was known that the allocated capital funding from the CHHP will not meet expenditure required to fully build radiation oncology infrastructure.

The Business Case has been completed and the cost plan for the preferred option indicates required capital funding of \$19,026,069 which is consistent with preliminary cost estimate provided to my office in June 2020.

I call on the Commonwealth Government to commit to fully funding this project to honour your election commitment to the Midwest by providing additional Commonwealth funds of \$10.03 million to allow WACHS to complete the Geraldton Radiation Oncology infrastructure project.

I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**

2 FEB 2021



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

4
RECEIVED

10 MAR 2021

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
Ref No: MC21-003055

The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health
Minister for Mental Health
13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

16 FEB 2021

Dear Deputy Premier *Roger*

I refer to your correspondence of 2 February 2021 concerning further Commonwealth funding for the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Radiation Oncology Facility at the Geraldton Health Campus.

I understand that the construction of the Radiation Oncology Facility is in the early planning stages and acknowledge the work undertaken by WACHS to date, including the establishment of the Project Working Group.

While I appreciate WACHS have now completed the feasibility study and business case for this project, the availability of further funding has not changed since my previous letter to you on 21 July 2020. Funding through the Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) is now fully committed and there are no additional funds available.

The total contribution from the Commonwealth to the Western Australian Government through the CHHP is \$121.9 million over seven years. As there are currently no further grant opportunities available through my Department to further support this project, I encourage WACHS to register on GrantConnect at: www.grants.gov.au to receive alerts about all Commonwealth grant opportunities.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt
Greg Hunt

cc: The Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government