

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL — RELOCATION

**305. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the minister's captain's call to abandon plans for the women's and babies' hospital at Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre and move it to the Fiona Stanley Hospital site, which has attracted significant criticism from WA health experts. Given that the original development of the women's and babies' hospital included a state-of-the-art emergency department, intensive care unit and theatre complex, what is the government's plan to now address these ageing facilities at QEII?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

First of all, I will again address the misinformation and dishonest statement peddled by the Leader of Liberal Party that somehow it was a captain's call. This was a cabinet decision —

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I asked you to withdraw the word “dishonest”.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** I withdraw.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Pants on fire!

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Landsdale, would you like to withdraw as well?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I withdraw that.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The relocation was a decision of cabinet made through a process; it was a process of cabinet. It was a decision made with new information and the reality of what it would mean with the implications of a very busy tertiary site that has 14 000 people accessing it every single day—14 000 people access that site every day. We were potentially looking at 10 years of a construction phase; two years to even get to building the hospital because of the existing services already on the site, with significant disruption; ambulances potentially being caught in construction traffic when trying to get to Perth Children's Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital; and a significant disruption to staff and parking, with dislocation over a protracted period.

The member asked the question: what are we doing around the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital upgrades? Largely, we will commit to a number of those upgrades, and they can be done within the envelope. We have already committed to the emergency department. That is completely separate. We have already committed to the business case for the emergency department and we will work with Charlies around what other upgrades it needs, because it continues to be a very important tertiary hospital. We have relieved it of the pressure of that site being a construction site for 10 years. We have also relieved the staff from shuttle-bus parking to the Graylands site over many, many years. We are talking about shiftworkers. We have taken the decision that it is in the best interests of the whole system, but, most of all, it is in the best interests of women and babies that the primary women's and babies' hospital goes to the Murdoch campus.