

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEDICAL CENTRE AMENDMENT BILL 2013

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by **Hon Alyssa Hayden (Parliamentary Secretary)**, read a first time.

Second Reading

HON ALYSSA HAYDEN (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.07 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill seeks to amend the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Act 1966, following a review of the act in accordance with section 21. The amendments are to enhance the governance to support the increasingly complex role of the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust to operate in a more flexible and responsive manner, given the current ongoing and proposed development on the site. It is important that trust members can meet through the most efficient and effective means, in order to ensure that development on the site is not delayed and, additionally, that health services continue to improve and to meet the public's expectations in this rapidly evolving area.

New state-of-the-art hospitals and facilities are planned and are being constructed on the site to meet the future healthcare needs of the public of Western Australia. This government is committed to the following major developments on the site. Construction works completed or underway include: the new children's hospital, to be completed in 2015, incorporating an integrated health research centre; the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research, with a completion date expected in 2013; the PathWest facility, which was completed in April 2013; the Comprehensive Cancer Centre, which is now completed; a multideck car park with 5 100 car parking bays, which is being completed in stages, with stages 1a and 1b already opened, providing an additional 1 500 car parking bays; a Ronald McDonald House, which is to be completed at the same time as the new children's hospital; the Neurosciences Research Institute, which is in the design stage; and the expansion and improvement of facilities at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, which will include a new mental health unit.

The bill also comprises the following amendments. Firstly, the trust is established under the act and is composed of five members. A quorum of the trust is currently prescribed as four members; it is intended that three members will comprise a quorum. Members are sometimes unable to attend meetings due to illness or other commitments such as travel. This change will enable the trust to continue to make decisions when only three members are present at a meeting.

Secondly, to assist the trust to operate more efficiently it is intended that members will not be required to hold all meetings face to face. Meetings could be held remotely by electronic means or by telephone, and resolutions could be made without holding a meeting. Written resolutions of the trust could be agreed by signing or other written methods, as if they had been passed at a meeting of the trust.

Thirdly, it is intended that eligible members of the trust will be remunerated in accordance with a recommendation from the Public Sector Commissioner, determined by the minister. This is standard practice for all government boards and committees, when a statutory provision provides for sitting fees and allowances.

Lastly, it is intended to increase the maximum penalty rate and modified penalty rate to \$200. The penalty rate would be up to \$200 and be prescribed in the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre (Delegated Site) By-laws 1986. The penalty rate is currently set at \$50, which is not considered to be a deterrent for offences such as vandalism. All amendments to the by-laws would be scrutinised by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.

The main aim of the amendments is to ensure that patients and the public can continue to access world-class facilities on the site by enabling trust members more flexibility in performing the functions required of them under the act. The increase in the general and modified penalty rates is to deter persons who would cause, amongst other things, damage or injury to persons on the site. The bill was previously introduced into the Legislative Assembly of Parliament on 13 September 2012 and second read. The bill lapsed due to the proroguing of Parliament because of the state election on 9 March 2013.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government of the state is a party, nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth. I commend the bill to the house, and I now table the explanatory memorandum.

[See paper 285.]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.