

HEALTH SERVICES — REGIONS

**165. Ms J.L. HANNS to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to provide regional Western Australians with world-class health care.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the \$14.7 million redevelopment of the Collie Health Service, including a new operating theatre?
- (2) Can the minister advise how upgrades to regional hospitals across the state mean more Western Australians can access quality health care closer to home?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

I thank the member for Collie–Preston for her question, and for her advocacy and leadership in her community. Collie–Preston is incredibly important to the state's economy.

- (1)–(2) I want to inform the house that having committed to a \$14.7 million investment in the Collie Health Service, the upgrades have now reached practical completion, and that includes upgrades to the operating theatre complex. This ensures that this local community will have access to a world-class health facility close to home. As well as a new operating theatre, the main works include upgrades to the theatre waiting room and reception, the addition of a new consulting room and the installation of state-of-the-art telehealth technology to allow that important support when seriously ill people walk through the door. There were also upgrades to the heating, cooling and ventilation systems; the replacement of hot-water facilities; upgrades to electrical systems; and upgrades to car park lighting.

This is just one of numerous regional health projects that we have underway across Western Australia, and in the south west in particular. Elsewhere, at Bunbury Hospital at South West Health Campus, the state government is expanding maternity, birthing and neonatal services. The \$277.9 million redevelopment will also include an expanded emergency department, increased operating theatre capacity, more beds and new clinical equipment. The birthing suites will be expanded to include three additional delivery rooms. We know that things are booming in the south west. People are moving down there in droves, either taking their families or starting families. Importantly, the hospital will also be equipped to manage moderate to high-risk emergencies. That will reduce the need to transfer patients to Fiona Stanley Hospital or another metropolitan hospital. There will also be an upgrade to the hospital's neonatal unit. It will be the biggest health campus in regional WA, with modern state-of-the-art equipment and, importantly, facilities to train staff, which will be really good in attracting clinical staff.

Down at Busselton Health Campus, the government funded a paediatric dental surgery. Under the leadership of Perth Children's Hospital, patients needing assessment and surgery can, on referral from their local dental care provider, now be seen locally in Busselton. Believe it or not, the local member, the member for Vasse, wrote to me complaining that we were opening this service. She did not like the service. It was a two-page letter complaining about the service. But I know that the families and children whom she represents will be well supported by this service.

In Albany, the radiation oncology facility is on the home stretch. The specialised linear accelerator suite, which uses X-rays to destroy cancer cells whilst sparing the surrounding tissue, was installed last year. I know the member for Albany will be very interested in this. Once complete, the facility will offer the potential for life-saving cancer treatment in the great southern close to home for people in surrounding areas, because we know they are required to make multiple trips for multiple treatments. We also know we get the best outcomes when people get health care close to home. This builds on the WA Country Health Service's cancer strategy, which is aimed at improving and expanding our delivery of cancer services across WA.

We know the opposition does nothing but criticise. We know that the member for Vasse criticised a paediatric dental service starting in her own region, but we also know that with nearly a quarter of government members as regional members it is this government, the McGowan government, that is delivering for regional WA.

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition with the last question.