

CHILD HEALTH CENTRES — SOUTHERN SUBURBS

536. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. I note there will not be 13 closures but how many centres will be closing as a result of this new approach?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

We are not reducing or closing services and there will be no reduction in FTE. There is no reduction in services or FTE.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: I have just said where those sites are crumbling around the ears of those important healthcare workers, leases will not be renewed on those sites. We are working with the community on what that will look like. The best possible care for those —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order please, member.

Ms A. SANDERSON: For those with complex needs, the best possible care is a multidisciplinary approach. It is a well-accepted model of care and that is why the government announced a number of years ago that for community-based services like child development services and the child and adolescent mental health service, a hub-and-spoke model is the best possible model. It was well canvassed in the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0–18 years in Western Australia. That was a recommendation from the ICA Taskforce.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order please, members.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, Leader of the Liberal Party and others who are interjecting.

Ms S. Winton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, I was calling to order someone on the other side of the chamber. When I am speaking, the last thing I expect is for someone to interject on me. Minister for Health.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The best possible model of care is having a multidisciplinary approach and a hub-and-spoke model, which means there will be centres in neighbourhoods and there will be larger centres in districts like Murdoch that will support those centres and go out to those centres. They will be the best possible facilities and newer facilities so they have the consultation rooms they need to do consultations. At the moment, some of them have one consultation room so they cannot get an occupational therapist, a speech therapist and a paediatrician there. They are not fit for purpose. We are upgrading this really important infrastructure in what is a growing area of need in the community. The Leader of the Liberal Party should be happy about that.