

PARABURDOO HOSPITAL

760. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the lack of investment in existing hospital and health service infrastructure in parts of northern WA.

- (1) Is the minister aware that Paraburdoo Hospital is in a state of disrepair and in need of urgent upgrades, with reports of scaffolding used in places to hold up sections of the ceiling?
- (2) If yes, when was the minister made aware, and what plans are underway to ensure that this health facility is repaired and upgraded?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) I am aware that there are some challenges around Paraburdoo, and there is work immediately underway to put in place those repairs. It is absolutely untrue that there is a lack of investment in the north of the state. That is a falsehood. It is a complete falsehood. There are around 800 sites around the state, by the way. That is completely wrong. We have a significant program of works going on in the northern part of the state. I just visited Newman Hospital to see the first stage of the works, and the second stage of that is underway. There are significant works at Tom Price Hospital. There will be even further works at Newman when we also open dialysis chairs for on-country dialysis, supported by the local Aboriginal community.

From time to time, some of the ageing assets are challenged and need work. That is absolutely what happens. The WA Country Health Service is working with the regional director up there to ensure that those works occur. But the member does these towns no justice by running them down. Members of the Nationals WA say that they are the party for regional WA, but they are so negative about the towns. The former member for North West Central had nothing good to say about the north west central area or about Carnarvon. He did not say a single positive thing about Carnarvon. Actually, we travel around those regional communities. There is huge opportunity. We have world-class health infrastructure and we are committed to delivering that. We have a \$3.2 billion asset investment plan across the country—more than members opposite ever implemented.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!