

OSBORNE PARK HOSPITAL — NEONATAL UNIT

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

I have a supplementary question. What does the minister say to her senior ministerial colleague who said that the non-functioning Osborne Park Hospital neonatal ward was not a good look?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

Madam Speaker —

A member interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** It is silly for you to make comments like that in the Parliament when you purport to be a serious player and leader in health and you want to seriously respect the health sector. It is silly, and playing silly politics.

We are serious about delivering expanded birthing services and neonatal services across the state, and that is what our recent announcement demonstrated. When a minister is asked in a press conference about something that is entirely out of their portfolio, that is challenging. We do not shell train lines or train stations, so in the prism of transport, it probably is not a good look, but in health, we do shell wards.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** No, that is a standard procedure. Shelling wards and futureproofing has happened over decades. If the member had any depth of knowledge of this sector, she would know that. We do shell in health because when we build multibillion-dollar assets, we need to make sure that they are fit for the future. We saw what happened with Perth Children's Hospital when it was not futureproofed. It is two floors too short, and that happened under the Liberal–National government. It refused to budge. Even with the new information and the new modelling, the former Liberal–National government with Colin Barnett and Kim Hames refused to budge. We are not that government. When we get new information, we will absolutely act on it and make sure that we are building a health system for the future.