

GERALDTON HEALTH CAMPUS — REDEVELOPMENT

**26. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Health:**

My question is not about ham sandwiches. I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to redevelop Geraldton Health Campus.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this important redevelopment will improve healthcare services for the Geraldton community and provide midwest residents with safe and efficient care closer to home?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on this Labor government's record of delivering better services and infrastructure for people living in the regions?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Geraldton for her question. The last redevelopment that the Geraldton Health Campus experienced was under the Gallop Labor government. It is the McGowan and Cook governments that will deliver the next redevelopment and the next iteration of that campus. It is a busy, busy hospital. It is one of our busiest regional hospitals, and I acknowledge and commend all the staff who work at Geraldton Health Campus. It has been a very challenging construction market and environment. The first round of tenders did not receive interest because of a very stretched market. Of course, we also had cyclone Seroja go through the midwest and that sucked up all the local construction capacity to essentially deliver houses, which was a priority. I was pleased to go to Geraldton at the end of last year, where I announced that under the second round of tenders, Multiplex had been appointed as the contractor to deliver the redevelopment. We have a lot of faith in Multiplex. It is a longstanding partner with the WA government, particularly in health, and it has an enormous amount of experience in redeveloping live assets. Redeveloping a very busy regional hospital while keeping everything open and running is a highly complex and carefully staged project. This will be incredible for Geraldton. It is a complex project. It will be delivered as quickly as possible, and stage 1, which is already completed, was obviously that extra car parking.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Is that funny?

**Mr R.S. Love:** We know it's a car park. It's been there for a long time.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** A couple of years.

**Mr R.S. Love:** You didn't do anything to it.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** You did not expand the car park.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Ask anyone who goes to hospital how important it is to have a car park.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Minister!

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier! This question was asked by the member for Geraldton, and it is being answered by the Minister for Health.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The Liberals and Nationals did nothing with Geraldton Health Campus—for the eight and a half years they were in government, not a single thing! The hypocrisy from that side is outrageous and the community sees through them.

This construction, the new redevelopment, will expand the emergency department. It is a busy emergency department. It will have a new ICU and high-dependency unit and, really importantly and excitingly for the Geraldton community, a new inpatient mental health unit that will integrate with the step-up, step-down service that was opened by this Labor government as well. It is an incredibly important development for Geraldton and signals the enormous amount of industry interested in starting in the midwest. It will be critical to the energy transition that the midwest and Geraldton are good places to live and to bring a family or relocate to. This is part of an over \$6 billion asset investment program this government has undertaken, which includes the brand new Newman Health Service; the redevelopment of the Newman Hospital was delivered and opened last year. The radiation oncology service was opened in Albany last year, with the member for Albany in attendance. We know that the community loves that service, and what an asset it is to that facility. We have upgraded the birthing suites in Broome, including waterbirth facilities. For the first time, women in Broome have access to a waterbirth supported by midwives.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** What about Carnarvon?

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** It includes upgrading outdoor spaces for women to labour and birth. We have delivered upgrades to Dongara Health Centre. Collie Hospital—the member for Collie–Preston is unfortunately unable to be here today—has incredible new theatre capacity.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** We’ve upgraded Carnarvon, too, by the way.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Yes, we have upgraded Carnarvon. We have delivered upgrades to the emergency departments at Plantagenet, Cranbrook, Boddington, Dalwallinu and Wongan Hills and we have added 30 beds to Bunbury Hospital and will deliver a major redevelopment at Bunbury Hospital. It is this Labor government that is investing in record amounts of infrastructure upgrades for regional Western Australians, and we have doubled the cancer services in regional Western Australia since we have come to government.