

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING MACHINE, PMH MEDICARE LICENCE

777. Mr MURRAY to the Minister for Health:

Can the minister advise the House when the federal Government will review Princess Margaret Hospital's bid for a magnetic resonance imaging machine Medicare licence?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr KUCERA replied:

I am not glad to see those on the other side of the House make such hysterics out of a children's -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Several members interjected.

Mr KUCERA: If the member for Hillarys wishes to laugh at the children of this State, it is a matter for him.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I do not want to be here for an hour of question time. The more interruptions we have of that magnitude, the longer question time will be.

Mr Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren-Blackwood!

Mr KUCERA: I am advised that the review committee will meet on Wednesday, 20 March. I hope that we will get a positive outcome. For once I took some comfort from comments made by the Prime Minister when he said this morning on a radio 6PR program that he would raise this issue with the federal Minister for Health and Ageing. I was totally amazed that three hours later in the federal Parliament the minister assisting the Minister for Health and Ageing said that this State had enough MRI machines. My concern is about the allocation of the machines. The Prime Minister said that five machines were within a five kilometre radius. This Government did not put those machines there or say what the allocation rule should be. I am sure that some groups and members on the other side of the House had a hand in the allocation. If members heard the mother who spoke on the radio today, they would know that the allocation system is flawed.

Mr Board interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Murdoch!

Mr KUCERA: We will push the system through. It is of great concern to me, as a result of comments from the other side of the House, that rather than supporting Princess Margaret Hospital in obtaining a licence -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr KUCERA: It is becoming very apparent that the Opposition is actively working against the bid to get the licence. I ask the member for Murdoch whether he will support a licence for Princess Margaret Hospital.

Mr Board: Of course I support a licence for Princess Margaret Hospital.

Mr KUCERA: It is about time he told his federal colleague.

Mr Board: Do you know what I would do? Unlike you, minister, I would get in and do it now and not play politics with the issue.

The SPEAKER: Member for Murdoch!

Mr Board: We gave you the money.

Mr KUCERA: The member had nine years.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Murdoch to order for the first time.