

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

130. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. How can the best performing economic state in the country continue to have such — Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! No! Can everyone, including ministers, be quiet. I would like to hear the question in silence. I am not interested in your commentary or reaction to it. It is a supplementary question.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, that is the second time you have interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: How can the best performing economic state in the country continue to have such a poor health-related outcome under the minister's watch?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

First of all, on behalf of the government, I will take the compliment from the member for Cottesloe that Western Australia is the best performing economic state in the country, with a high rate of employment and very high rates of participation. That is good for households.

I will outline the investment by this government in our health system, particularly as it relates to emergency departments. Much of this investment is actually in commonwealth areas. We have had \$60 million to convert 120 temporary transition care beds—that is, aged-care beds—into permanent care beds. This government is funding that. There is \$22 million to uplift adult community health treatments to support people.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The member asked the question; I am giving him the answer. We have spent \$90 million on innovation in how we support our patients to find alternative care, because at the moment the emergency department is the only funnel. We know that primary care is struggling. We know that people cannot get in to see general practitioners.

This government has made record investment in our hospital system, from the emergency department through to discharge and through to community services. I look forward to the opposition's solutions to the complex issues that face every single health system around the world.