

OSBORNE PARK HOSPITAL, MATERNITY UNIT

Petition

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.03 am]: I present the following petition on behalf of the member for Carine -

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, are opposed to the closure of the maternity unit at Osborne Park Hospital (OPH). Closure of this unit where more than 1500 women chose to give birth in 2004 will restrict women to utilising a large tertiary hospital. Women have chosen OPH because of its forward thinking staff/ideas, its safety record, its homely and personal atmosphere and low intervention rate. OPH's location ensures its easy access to both patients and visitors. Increasing development north of Joondalup will continue to increase the burden on the Joondalup facilities while redevelopments have ensured that the area serviced by OPH also continues to change its demographics. At OPH doctors and midwives are trained in low intervention obstetrics/midwifery. All of this will be lost in a large tertiary unit where the personal touch is difficult to maintain.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 24 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

[See petition 36.]