

BUSSELTON HOSPITAL

459. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for South West:

- (1) Can the minister advise the house of the government's plans to build a new hospital for the people of Busselton?
- (2) Is he aware of any other views?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)-(2) The government has a wonderful plan to build a new hospital for the people of Busselton. It will be a \$65 million new facility, expanding the number of beds from 50 to 75 to service the needs of the people of Busselton, Dunsborough, Yallingup and surrounding areas. It is a wonderful plan put together by this government to meet the needs of the people of Busselton and the surrounding region. I would have thought that most people in this place who were to have a \$65 million new hospital built in the middle of their electorate would be kind of happy about the fact. However, that is not so.

Mr T. Buswell: It is \$77 million now.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is \$77 million. The member for Vasse made a 40-minute speech in this place last night in which he complained up hill and down dale that the government would be building a \$77 million new hospital in his electorate. I want to make two points about this issue. First, I would have thought that if the member was going to come into this place and complain about a new hospital being built in his electorate, he would have had a policy of his own to stand on. In the 2005 state election campaign, the Liberal Party had a policy for the Busselton hospital. That policy was to expand the emergency department at the hospital at a cost of \$500 000. That was the Liberal Party's plan for the Busselton hospital. This government has a plan to spend more than 130 times that amount on the member's new hospital.

Secondly, the member for Vasse came into this place yesterday and ran down the location of the proposed hospital. However, it turns out that in 2003 the shire council was looking at moving its offices. The member for Vasse, the then shire president, said at the time that there were a number of arguments supporting the long-term move to Vasse. He said that as the shire developed, Vasse would become a central and strategic location for the shire. Back then the member wanted to move the council offices to Vasse. Now, three years later, Mr Flip-flop is saying that the hospital cannot possibly go there. That is another example, if one were needed, of a person who stands for nothing and believes in nothing.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not only is the member for Vasse hard of hearing, but also he is short of eyesight, because he knows that he is not to speak while I am on my feet. He is called to order for the first time.