

NURSES AND MIDWIVES — RECRUITMENT

72. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the latest publicly available health data from the *Report on government services 2024*, which was released three weeks ago today, and to the minister's comments yesterday that every single health system was under strain during the pandemic.

- (1) Can the minister explain why both Queensland and Victoria were able to recruit more nursing staff than Western Australia over the course of the pandemic, between 2019 and 2022, given that they were suffering the same issues in their health systems?
- (2) Why was WA able to recruit only 2 822 nurses between 2016 and 2022 compared with the 5 918 recruited in Queensland and the 6 729 recruited in Victoria?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the minister responds, the first part of the question asked the minister for an opinion—to explain what Queensland did. You need to be careful with those questions, Leader of the Liberal Party.

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) I do not know whether the Leader of the Liberal Party has been across Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria, but the size of their populations is significantly different. Queensland and Victoria have more hospitals and proportionally larger hospitals. It is a ridiculous preamble. They have proportionality more hospitals and significantly bigger populations. In the last week of this chamber in 2023, I listened to the member for Vasse criticise the Western Australian government for spending the most per capita on health. The basis of her criticism was that we spend more per head of population on health than any other state or territory and that the health system is inefficient. That was a direct criticism of staff. We spend more per head of population than any other state or territory. We are a uniquely different jurisdiction. We are the largest health jurisdiction in the world, and we deliver services differently. The proportionality of that increase is in line with the population.