

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL — RELOCATION

794. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. With two newly leaked letters stating that the proposed standalone obstetrics hospital model of care is outdated and inherently unsafe, how can the Premier possibly continue to justify the decision?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I think I have answered this question about four times during this question time. The member had not asked a question on this yet, so maybe he wanted to have a go on this matter. This is an important decision about how we develop hospital services in Western Australia and how we do it in the context of what we have before us. We have a range of clinical advice and we have a range of technical advice.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, member.

Mr R.H. COOK: We are taking all that advice on board to make sure that we can make the best decision on behalf of the people of Western Australia and the taxpayers. We are taking on all the best advice to make sure that we can develop this facility in a timely manner, hopefully before those opposite cancel it and see it not developed for another decade or two. The advice that we will not be taking on board in relation to the development of this hospital is from the Liberals and the Nationals.

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

Tabling of Paper

Ms L. METTAM: Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party.

Ms L. METTAM: In answer to my question to the Premier regarding King Edward Memorial Hospital, it appeared that the Premier was referring to correspondence.

The SPEAKER: What are you rising to do?

Ms L. METTAM: I am asking for the Premier to table correspondence—an official document.

Dr D.J. Honey: It is the nearest appropriate time.

The SPEAKER: This is not the nearest appropriate time, apart from anything else. The member could have risen at the time if she had an issue.

Dr D.J. Honey: We left it to the end of question time, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I will listen to what the member has to say. But when you rise to your feet, you have to make it clear why you are rising to your feet. I did not know whether you were making a point of order or whether you wanted to move an item for the next matter of business. When you seek the call, you need to advise me what you are seeking the call to do. But, yes, go ahead.

Ms L. METTAM: I am seeking the call because in answer to the question to the Premier regarding King Edward Memorial Hospital clinician correspondence, I believe the Premier was referring to official correspondence. I believe that in his answer he was referring to an official document. I was just asking that it be tabled.

The SPEAKER: Member, I draw your attention to standing order 157, which reads —

A Minister who has quoted from an official document will table that document if requested by any other member either during, or immediately after the conclusion of the remarks which include the quotation.

I do not think you have met that criteria.