

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL — RELOCATION

**762. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Given the enormous weight of concern and evidence that has been raised, will the minister now admit that her decision to move this hospital to Murdoch risks potentially deadly outcomes for women and babies?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

Again, I point to the opposition's total irresponsibility in this case. The opposition is undermining the services at Fiona Stanley Hospital. It runs very highly skilled neonatology services. This was a difficult decision that the government had to make, but it was a decision that needed to be made. I have heard some, like the Australian Medical Association, say that they are site agnostic. I cannot afford to be site agnostic; the government cannot afford to be site agnostic because we need to find a site to build a hospital. The best site is the Murdoch site. It will deliver a world-class facility for women and newborns.

**Ms L. Mettam:** It will not be world class.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Is the member for Vasse saying that without co-location now, the current services are not world class?

**Ms L. Mettam:** Without co-location, it will not be world class.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** We do not have co-location now.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** I urge the Leader of the Liberal Party to get outside of the western suburbs and talk to clinicians.

**Ms L. Mettam:** I urge you to listen to the best advice.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Is that right?

**Ms L. Mettam:** Yes, it is.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The member for Vasse is not listening to a broad range of advice. When we make policy decisions —

**Ms L. Mettam:** You made a captain's call.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, you will cease interjecting.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** When we make policy and infrastructure decisions, we have to get a broad range of views from the experts in that field.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Is the member finished?

That is exactly what we did in this instance, and the risks were too high to build a hospital at QEII. We are now building services in the northern and southern corridors and they will deliver the best, world-class maternity services for women who live in those catchments.