

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT — RESUSCITATION TEAM

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the significance of this recommendation, why was the minister not across her brief and when will this critical recommendation be put in place?

The SPEAKER: Member, I just remind you that you again asked two questions as a supplementary when you are required to ask one.

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I think I just quite clearly outlined exactly what occurred and how it occurred to the chamber. If the member is not satisfied with that explanation, I am happy to meet with her and walk through it again.

I will say that since I have been minister, we have overseen a significant changeover of the board. The former minister appointed the very highly regarded Dr Rosanna Capolingua to lead the board. The current board has some of our best health leaders. There is so much firepower on that board that is working with the organisation to ensure it is doing everything it can to restore trust in our tertiary children's hospital. We have also overseen a significant changeover of the executive, including the chief executive. With the director general, we have seen the intervention that was implemented under the act, which had a range of recommendations and findings, and they are also being implemented. I have ongoing communication with the Aswath family around how those recommendations are being implemented.

I have worked diligently, as has the CAHS board and executive, to implement recommendations and ensure that we are providing the safest environment. We have all seen very reasonable challenges in the community, and that includes those staffing challenges around COVID. It is our expectation that they will be rapidly recruiting into those senior nursing roles. I also make the point that as well as those senior resuscitation nurses, we have put in place a senior triage nurse, so there are now two senior triage nurses; that was not in place in April 2021. There is also the waiting room nurse, which is in place in not only this emergency department, but also other emergency departments around the state, and Aishwarya's CARE Call. There is significant and lasting change across the system around this terrible incident, and no-one wants to see it happen again.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.