

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN — OPERATING THEATRES

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

I refer to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.

- (1) Is the government planning or undertaking works to build or expand operating theatres at this site?
- (2) What is the cost of the proposed upgrade?
- (3) What is the planned closure date for King Edward Memorial Hospital following the opening of the new women's and babies' hospital?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

- (1)–(3) Some of those questions I can answer; others, in terms of the cost of the upgrades and works that are going on at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, I would direct the member to put on notice. To provide the member some facts, King Eddy's delivers around 5 000 babies a year. There are 5 000 babies a year born at King Eddy's, so every now and then we need to make sure that all those facilities are fit for purpose for those women. Even whilst we are in the process of planning and building the new women's and babies' hospital, we are not going to let King Edward Memorial Hospital fall in a heap or lose its accreditation. It is still required to be accredited as a health facility; therefore, there are works that need to be done. These were planned works for the theatres. This is no indication of a time line for the women's and newborns' hospital; this is an indication of the commitment that this government has to delivering the best possible maternity care at our state's primary birthing place and making sure that those 5 000 babies and 5 000 families have the best facilities whilst we are planning for the future.

As the member well knows, there is not a date for closure, because until we have a date for opening the new hospital and a tender for the new hospital, we will not be doing that. We will not be falling into the same traps that the former government fell into in the commissioning of Fiona Stanley and Perth Children's Hospitals. We are learning those lessons. I regularly pick up the report, led by my cabinet colleague the Minister for Education, about all the mistakes made by the previous government, and a list of what not to do when building a hospital. It is very helpful.

We are absolutely so committed to the new women's and newborns' hospital that we have put \$1.7 billion in the budget for that hospital. We have selected a site for that hospital; it will be on the QEII campus. It will also have access to Perth Children's Hospital so that those women who have babies who need care at Perth Children's Hospital will not have so far to go. There will be a lot of shared services and support for that hospital. This is a really exciting development for women in Western Australia. There is no question that King Edward is getting towards the end of its life, but it is my responsibility as Minister for Health, and this government's responsibility, to ensure that the women of Western Australia have the best possible facilities right to the end of that hospital's life.