

RESIDENTIAL EATING DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY

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

I refer to the *Four Corners* program aired last month that detailed how underprepared Western Australia's health system is to deal with eating disorders and that the former coalition federal government committed funding for a WA residential eating disorder centre four years ago. Given that the federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, has now written to the minister seeking clarity on her commitment to completing this facility, when will the minister's government commence this crucially important project?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

As I have outlined before, this government has made significant investment in supporting community-based services for adults and children experiencing eating disorders. It is crippling for families. It is a terrible experience, both physically and mentally, for those young people in particular who are experiencing eating disorders. All evidence shows that the best work is done early on and in supporting people in the community. Where we provide support to people in place, in situ, we are able to avoid lengthy hospital stays. That is why this government committed \$31 million to expand the community-based eating disorder treatment program. That is rolling out in south metro and north metro as we speak and supporting people. We also secured just over \$8 million for East Metropolitan Health Service to roll out a similar service. As I have laid out previously, the \$4 million commitment from the member for Canning made at a federal election with absolutely no consultation with the state, did not consider the state's model of care and it did not consider best practice or an evidence-based model of care. A commitment of \$4 million is not enough to pay for the car park. It is not a genuine commitment. I put it to the member for Vasse that that is not a genuine commitment, and I put it to the member for Canning. That is not a genuine commitment to resolve the complex issues affecting the whole family. The member must be privy to correspondence from the federal Minister for Health and Aged Care to me that I have not seen.

Ms L. Mettam: You are not working with him?

Ms A. SANDERSON: I have never said that he wrote to me. We are in ongoing discussion about how to best use that \$4 million. My preferred approach is for it to be used on evidence-based models of care that we know will support families and get outcomes for people and will not just pay for a building.