

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL

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

Yesterday, the Minister for Health was unable to answer a simple question about upgrades to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and said that these works were no indication of a time line for the new women's and babies' hospital.

- (1) Given that it was an election commitment that works would commence in 2023, why was the minister unable to advise when construction will commence and be completed?
- (2) Why is there no funding in the budget across any year for the construction of this facility?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) The Leader of the Liberal Party might be interested to know that even the company that will be building the hospital does not know that it will be building it yet, because we have not actually put the project to tender. We are in the planning phase. The member may well know, or she may not, that we get a completion date when we issue the tender. We are in the planning and consultation phase of this project. I have made no issue about that. That is an important part of the project.

I can tell the member how much the upgrades to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women will cost. I am happy to own that I cannot keep every single figure in my head. We have a record infrastructure program in Western Australia—a record infrastructure program—and I cannot keep every single figure in my head, because I am only human, but I have found out that information. I am pleased to tell the member that the former commonwealth Liberal–National government provided \$15.2 million—that was announced by Greg Hunt and former Senator Mathias Cormann—and the state government provided an additional \$19.5 million for those upgrades to King Edward Memorial Hospital. There was a lot of discussion at that time from former Senator Cormann and the former federal health minister about keeping King Eddy's in fit shape and tip-top whilst the women's and newborns' hospital was being built. These are important works. As I said, 5 000 babies are born every single year in our state's premier maternity hospital. It is this government that is investing in women's health, with \$1.7 billion in the budget to build the new women's and newborns' hospital. As part of that, we are looking at models of care and putting women at the centre of those models of care and ensuring that it will be the kind of maternity hospital that will not only deliver the best maternity services, but is also the centre for best practice women's health services in Western Australia.