

BENTLEY HOSPITAL — BED CAPACITY

**633. Dr J. KRISHNAN to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment our hospitals and its commitment to deliver extra capacity across Western Australia's public health system.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the delivery of additional beds in our hospitals?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what these additional beds mean for Bentley Hospital?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

I thank the member for Riverton for his question and his lifelong commitment to improving health outcomes for our community and bringing that passion into the Parliament.

- (1)–(2) On Tuesday, 11 October, the new 30-bed modular unit opened at Bentley Hospital. It is a welcome addition to Bentley Hospital that is part of our delivery of the equivalent of a tertiary hospital in beds across our health system in the last 12 months—a significant uplift in beds across our public health system. The modular ward is a unique build and design for WA Health and it has worked incredibly well. We are certainly keen to explore further opportunities for this kind of build and design into the future. The unit is, essentially, designed and built in WA using a local workforce and then moved onsite and landscaped into the hospital. It is a permanent structure and it is beautifully and seamlessly attached to the existing hospital. At Bentley campus, this means an extra 30 beds for the rehabilitation of patients. It is a beautiful unit. It has a kitchen, a dining area and a gym as well as the beds so that people who have had significant injuries can be assessed and learn skills in a home setting such as how to manoeuvre around the kitchen to cook for themselves and to take care of themselves if they are using new equipment or a wheelchair and so on and so forth. There is a group therapy area as well.

It was great to talk to some of the patients and allied health staff at the new facility. These modular constructions have added additional beds to Bunbury Hospital at South West Health Campus, Osborne Park Hospital, Bentley Hospital and Rockingham General Hospital. That is fantastic and they have gone up in literally six months. It is outstanding work from the infrastructure team at the Departments of Health and Finance and I want to thank Multiplex for delivering this build on time and on budget.

A member interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Yes, it is really good. It will also mean an uplift of 80 full-time clinical staff in this ward alone. That will leave open beds at Royal Perth Hospital. Those who are recovering in Royal Perth Hospital can be moved out to Bentley and do their rehabilitation there. That will open up beds at Royal Perth Hospital for those who come in with more traumatic and acute illnesses and who need to be supported in a tertiary hospital such as Royal Perth Hospital. It is fantastic outcome. It has taken less than six months for all these modular builds and it is a great outcome for WA Health.