

ST JOHN OF GOD MIDLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL

170. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. The minister may contest it, but this is a letter from 50 clinicians. How long do they have to wait?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

Hospitals are expected to manage within the pricing of hospitals. That contract was agreed to by St John of God, which runs the hospital.

Dr D.J. Honey: They had no choice.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The member for Cottesloe does not understand. These contracts are negotiated contracts. It was renegotiated and the pricing was renegotiated, which was agreed to by St John of God, which runs the hospital. It is an issue for St John of God. Are clinicians under pressure and is it a busy hospital? Absolutely. It is a busy hospital. It is a big catchment. The hospital does not have enough beds because you did not build it big enough, and the emergency department needs more bays. The state government has put in a number of investments to ease pressure, including support with staffing from Royal Perth Hospital to go to St John of God Midland Public Hospital and work in the hospital to support clinicians, and also including an investment in an ambulatory rapid-care unit to divert those emergency presentations that do not necessarily need to be admitted but can be seen. We continue to invest and absolutely to work with St John of God, but, ultimately, members opposite privatised that hospital. The pricing and resourcing was agreed to by St John of God, and the management of the hospital of St John of God needs to work with clinicians on working through what those issues are, and we as a state government will continue to support them.