

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN — OPERATING THEATRES

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

I have a supplementary question. Why can the minister not answer the cost question, and how much longer does she expect women to have to utilise these facilities until the women's and babies' hospital is actually open and available?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I had both my babies at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. Many of us in here had their babies at King Edward. I chose the public system to have my children, and I chose to go to King Edward because I know that is where women get the best care. There is no question; I know that is where women get the best care. If women ever need acute or intensive care when they are birthing, that is where they go. There is no question that it is an ageing facility; the building is over a hundred years old. It was planned and built by May Holman and Edith Cowan. There is no question that that needs to happen, but we do need to build another hospital before we can start commissioning those services. In the meantime, I will absolutely ensure, as Minister for Health and as a minister who prioritises women's health and maternity services, that those facilities are the best they can be until the end.