

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL

40. Mrs M.R. MARSHALL to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to delivering exceptional health care for women and babies across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's delivery of the new women's and babies' hospital in Murdoch, as well as expanded maternity and neonatology services at the Osborne Park and Perth Children's Hospitals?
- (2) Can the minister please inform the house how these projects will deliver safe patient-centred maternity care for the women of Western Australia?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I thank the member for Rockingham for her question.

- (1)–(2) This morning, as the Premier has briefly touched on, we were at Bentley Hospital to announce the first credentialed endorsed midwife to be employed in the public system and a team of credentialed endorsed midwives who will be leading a genuine continuity-of-care model out of Bentley Hospital, which is a fantastic development for the public system and something that many people in this chamber are very passionate about. That is a great development.

With that, today I also announced that we are opening expressions of interest for the managing contractor to build the new women's and newborns' hospital. The managing contractor will take in three of the major projects, not just the brand new tertiary hospital at Murdoch. The managing contractor will also be responsible for the Osborne Park Hospital facility expansion, including a brand new family birthing centre, and the increase in the number of neonate cots at Perth Children's Hospital, because this is an integrated plan. We need to make sure that it is integrated and that those services come online and are sequenced at exactly the right time to ensure they have an incredibly smooth transition. As we know, King Edward Memorial Hospital has well and truly passed its use-by date, and it is getting harder and harder for the incredible staff there to provide safe, modern care for the women and neonates of Western Australia. We know that we cannot wait 20 years to fully transition from that site.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON: We know that women with cancer cannot continue to have to work with their oncologists to negotiate their way into the various cancer sites for gynaecological cancers in Western Australia. They deserve an excellence of oncology for gynaecological cancers in Western Australia. We know that they cannot continue to wait. That is why we are getting on with opening these expressions of interest and getting a managing contractor in place early so we can work with them and use their expertise about design, engineering and sequencing of the project. It will limit duplication and make the process more seamless as we move into the construction phase. It will also be incredibly integral, as we move forward, with the consultation of users of the hospitals, both clinicians and women.

We also know that the difference here is that the Liberal Party will scrap that plan. It will scrap that plan. It will scrap a new family birthing centre at Osborne Park Hospital. It will scrap a new tertiary hospital at the Murdoch site. We note that they cannot build safely on top of Charlie's without creating decades of chaos and confusion, without scaling back services and without relocating services.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms A. SANDERSON: It highlights the risk and recklessness of the Liberal and National Parties. They cannot be trusted to make the right decisions for Western Australians.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, please stop interjecting.

Ms A. SANDERSON: They would rather risk decades of disruption to two major tertiary hospitals for children and adults than make the right decision for Western Australians, which is what this government has done in relocating that hospital to Murdoch and Osborne Park.