

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL

171. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's delivery of a new women's and babies' hospital in Murdoch.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the delivery of this important hospital, as well as new and expanded maternity and neonatology services at both Perth Children's Hospital and Osborne Park Hospital?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house on whether she is aware of any risks to the delivery of the new women's and babies' hospital for women in WA?

Dr D.J. Honey: Talk about recycling questions!

A government member: You're one to talk!

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) Jeez—talk about recycling; there is the pot calling the kettle black!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Ms A. SANDERSON: I thank the member for Belmont for her question. I am very glad to talk about maternity services in Western Australia. Members know that is probably one of my favourite topics to talk about, and all the fantastic work that has occurred under this government, the Labor state government, since coming to government in 2017. I am very, very proud to be the Minister for Health under this government, which will be delivering a brand new women's and newborns' hospital at the Murdoch campus, as well as expanding maternity services at Osborne Park Hospital and neonatologist services at Perth Children's Hospital.

We all know that King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is 100 years old. It is well past its use-by date, and the government is committed to delivering a replacement for this hospital. It cannot wait, the staff at King Eddy's cannot wait, and the women who use King Edward's and the families who use King Edward's cannot wait. That is why we are investing in the safest option to deliver a maternity hospital for Western Australians. When it comes to reproductive choices, it is this government that has expanded reproductive choices for women in Western Australia. It is only this government. We know what the opposition members will do with their preselection of far-right candidates. They want to close off reproductive rights for women, and you know it!

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: You know it!

We have expanded midwifery group practices in Armadale, Bridgetown, Broome, Bunbury and Collie and at Fiona Stanley Hospital, King Edward's, Margaret River Hospital, Northam Health Service and Warren Health Service. There is lots of strong evidence around the continuity of care that midwifery group practice provides for women pre-birth, during birth and post birth. We have delivered waterbirthing facilities in Broome Hospital and provided an outdoor space for women to labour. This government is the only party of government that is committed to delivering the women's and newborns' hospital at Murdoch.

We know that the Leader of the Liberal Party has been on quite a journey with this hospital. We have heard her disparaging and disdainful comments about the clinicians at Fiona Stanley Hospital—the neonatologists who support the building of this hospital. She has talked a lot about taking advice when it comes to this hospital. In the estimates committee last year, she called on the state government to have the decision to relocate the women's and newborns' hospital reviewed by Infrastructure WA, so we did. We had the decision reviewed by Infrastructure WA. She then called that review, because it did not say what she wanted to say, “political trickery”—disrespecting an independent office of experts.

Dr D.J. Honey: That was a disgrace.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The member for Cottesloe is calling them a disgrace.

Dr D.J. Honey: I said it in here that that was a disgrace, that report.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON: She then accused the director general of Health, who had previously commissioned Fiona Stanley Hospital, of providing advice the government wants to hear. Now, I know that he briefed her personally on this project. We have been incredibly transparent about this project. We have released the business case and the project definition plan that underlined the reasoning for the decision for us to relocate that hospital. Because of the significance, we were absolutely transparent. The director general briefed the Leader of the Liberal Party

personally, and he said to her, “If you were the Minister for Health, I would give you exactly the same advice. You cannot build this hospital here.” But she is going to completely ignore that advice. Imagine a minister who totally disregards all the advice of government, but knows better.

When asked on 15 February whether she would tear up the contract signed by the Labor Party, she said, “Absolutely.” She would tear up contracts; therefore, what is the Leader of the Liberal Party’s plan?

Ms L. Mettam: A world-class site.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON: What is the plan for maternity services? Which buildings in Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre does she plan to knock down to build the women’s and newborns’ hospital? Which outpatient services at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will she suspend? How will staff and visitors access the campus during construction? Where will they park?

Ms L. Mettam: And will it be a world-class facility?

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: Which elective surgery —

Ms L. Mettam: Yes! Yes, it will.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The member for Vasse has a lot to say —

The SPEAKER: I am hoping that the member for Vasse does not have the next question.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Madam Speaker, where will they park? Which elective surgeries will the Leader of the Liberal Party cancel during the construction? There is only one location where it can be built safely, and that is on the Fiona Stanley Hospital campus. Her partners in opposition—are you partners? I do not know—cannot agree on who goes to a press conference, so I cannot imagine that they could agree on something as important as where to build a maternity hospital. The Nationals WA members have been conspicuously quiet on this issue. They have been conspicuously quiet because they know that this is a good decision for regional women coming in off the Royal Flying Doctor Service. We know that the member for Vasse would scrap that location, which is better for regional women —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: She would scrap the expansion at Osborne Park Hospital. She would trash the independent assessment from IWA. She cannot explain how she will deliver that women’s and newborns’ hospital —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: — and the Nationals are completely silent. She has no plan for maternity services in Western Australia. The only plan she has is to tear up the plan.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, question time is at the discretion of the Speaker. That is the way it is and the way it has always been. When I give you advice to cease interjecting, I expect you to cease interjecting, because it is incessant and repetitive. I gave you a warning that I hoped you did not have the next question. You then interjected twice more on a question that you had not asked. This is the last occasion that I am going to let you ask a question after you have behaved in that way—a way that no other member of this chamber does.