

ST JOHN OF GOD MIDLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL

**169. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Health:**

More than 50 clinicians from St John of God Hospital in Midland have signed a letter highlighting this WA Labor government's failure to adequately resource their hospital for years. Noting that this is not the first time that health experts have been critical of this WA Labor government's failure to manage our health system, when can these clinicians, as well as many others, expect results, as opposed to ignorance?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

I am happy to answer this question. I have a couple of things. Midland hospital was built under the former Liberal–National coalition government, and you built it too small. You built it too small, against all advice. The advice was that more beds were needed in that hospital because it services not only the east metropolitan region, but also the inner wheatbelt and Northam. Against the advice, the Liberal coalition government went ahead. Not only that, the Liberal–National coalition government built it too small and then privatised the hospital to St John of God Health Care.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** I strongly contest the assertion that it is under-resourced because the contract with St John of God was renegotiated last year, and it agreed to the contract and the pricing. We run efficient hospitals in Western Australia. St John of God agreed to the resourcing and the pricing, so I strongly contest the assertion that it is under-resourced. It is small, and that contributes to some of the congestion, but I strongly object to and contest the assertion that it is under-resourced; it is not.