

KALGOORLIE HEALTH CAMPUS — MRI MACHINE

Statement

HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral) [6.23 pm]: I rise tonight to put on the record a response to Hon Robin Scott's member's statement last night about an MRI machine in Kalgoorlie. Firstly, it is great to be able to agree with the member about something—that the Kalgoorlie region is in dire need of an MRI machine. But as is quite common with the honourable member, he does not let the truth get in the way of a good member's statement. Unlike the member, WA Labor identified well before the election, with our candidate working very hard on the ground, how critical an MRI machine would be for the region. We rightfully made a strong election commitment that we would deliver an MRI machine to Kalgoorlie. How did we do this? We did it with the goldfields plan, which had our election commitments in it. I would like to table this document so the honourable member can have a read and he will know that the WA Labor Party has been driving this election commitment for the goldfields region. I seek leave to table that document.

Leave granted. [See paper [3939](#).]

Hon KYLE MCGINN: The honourable member will have a good read of that. He knows that the Labor Party has been delivering. It was the one driving to get this delivered, even prior to being elected. For the record, WA Labor was and is the only party that committed to delivering an MRI machine to the goldfields region during the 2017 election. No other party, including Hon Robin Scott's, made any commitment on the MRI machine. I do not think that was mentioned.

As always, the member made a sly dig about me in his statement last night, referring to me not signing his petition. He did not mention that I was meeting with a community group, the police commissioner and a minister at the time, but regardless, as far as I am concerned, what I just tabled is a way stronger document for seeing an MRI machine delivered in the goldfields.

The MRI machine is needed and there are many reasons why, but I will not go into them, as there have been many discussions on the subject in this chamber. I will say that the member did not seem to mention the disaster that is the history of this project, which spans back to as early as 2001, when Liberal member Matt Birney publicly lobbied for one. In 2008, the Liberal Party made a commitment to deliver an MRI room and machine to the hospital during the upgrade of the hospital. When doing the upgrade, the Liberal government completely forgot about the MRI machine and did no work whatsoever on it.

I would love the member to table this so-called response from the government saying that we would not deliver an MRI machine due to cost. Quite frankly, I do not think it exists, and, again, do not let the truth get in the way of a good member's statement. We are delivering our election commitments. Even without having won the seat of Kalgoorlie, we are the party that delivers. The people of Kalgoorlie have really enjoyed seeing all the commitments in our plan delivered.

Hon Robin Scott also said that it was a six-and-a-half-hour round trip from Kalgoorlie to Perth—it may be for someone who has their own plane! It is a 13-hour round trip from Kalgoorlie to Perth. It is a long trip—six and a half hours each way.

Hon Peter Collier: I have done it many times, mate!

Hon KYLE MCGINN: So have I, member.

Although One Nation loves to boast that it delivered the Medicare licence off the back of the deal in the Senate for, I think, passing some tax cuts to the wealthy—apparently that is what One Nation did a deal for—I know some facts that may dismiss this. At the time, I was lobbying both the federal and the state government for a Medicare licence to be delivered to the goldfields, and it was the shadow Minister for Health, Catherine King, who first started talking publicly, as far as the federal government is concerned, about a Medicare licence for the region. She came to Kalgoorlie and announced that if Labor were elected, it would deliver the Medicare licence to the region. The federal government at the time had issued only two Medicare licences for the entire term it had been in, so it was quite an achievement to put that on the record. Lo and behold, not long after, the federal Liberal–National government matched the promise and delivered the licence.

I know that the community understands at a higher level than Hon Robin Scott that delivering this key piece of equipment and ensuring that we do it right so it is there for the long term and brings great outcomes for everyone is not as simple as building a concrete room and plonking an MRI machine in it, to quote the member. Seriously, when we came to government, this issue was over 15 years old. Nothing had been done when we came into government—there were no business cases, no planning, no funding, no nothing. WA Labor has progressed it, we are committed to it and we will deliver it for the people of the goldfields.

The PRESIDENT: Member, just before you return to your seat, I encourage you to look at standing order 45, just for future reference.

Hon Sue Ellery: Reading?

The PRESIDENT: No, it is not about reading. The member can look it up himself.