

HEALTH — INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

805. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in Western Australia's public health system. Can the minister update the house on the delivery of key infrastructure projects across the health system and outline how they will continue to maintain WA's world-class health service?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for her question and I am very pleased that we are able today to announce that expressions of interest for the redevelopment of Geraldton Health Campus are now open.

WA Health has, if not the biggest and most extensive infrastructure portfolio of government, certainly one of the most extensive, and we care for 2.6 million residents over 800 sites in the state. Some of those sites are very small and others are very large. They range from community clinics through to the large tertiary hospitals. It is an extensive infrastructure portfolio. This government is committed to ensuring the best possible quality health care and infrastructure for all of Western Australia. We have committed \$1.6 billion to health infrastructure alone over the coming four years, with 119 projects that will use or have utilised that funding.

Today, we have reached another milestone in the infrastructure program with our announcement that expressions of interest for the next stage of the Geraldton Health Campus development have now been released on Tenders WA. That is a \$122.7 million redevelopment that will deliver more beds, more treatment spaces, an expanded emergency department, a short-stay unit, and an integrated mental health service, which is incredible for the region, including an inpatient unit that will be co-located with community treatment and expanded critical care services. I know this has been a passion project for the member for Geraldton and I thank her for her consistent advocacy for this project. It will make a big difference to the whole of the midwest. It includes 400 additional car bays that were put in place in the first stage of enabling works and the reconfiguration of the main entrance to the emergency department. We know that the midwest currently does not have any inpatient mental health facilities, so this will be a really significant development that will be co-located with those community-based services. It is the single biggest redevelopment of and investment in Geraldton Health Campus since it was first developed by the Gallop government in the 2000s. We are very proud of this government to be supporting that development.

Our other significant infrastructure developments include Joondalup Health Campus stage 2, with a budget allocation of \$256 million, which will see the construction of over 100 mental health unit beds, 112 public beds, a cardiac catheterisation lab and central plant upgrade. This achieved contract execution in January 2021 and has already successfully completed the expansion of the emergency department up there in the northern suburbs.

The Bunbury Hospital redevelopment is another project and is close to the member for Bunbury's heart, with a budget allocation of \$200 million aiming to address projected demand increases across the entire south west. It will include maternity, birthing and neonates, as well as important mental health services. Early works, which also included the new car park, include offsite accommodation for ambulatory care and hospital in the home, and procurement of necessary ICU equipment.

We have also seen a large number of projects completed recently, including the Osborne Park Hospital expansion; the Royal Perth Hospital mental health observation area; the RPH helipad; the Carnarvon aged and palliative care facility; upgrades to the Dongara aged-care facility; and the 430-bed modular wards at the Osborne Park, Rockingham, Bentley and Bunbury hospital sites. That construction was fast-tracked to ensure that all four wards were operational within 12 months of project conception, which is an incredible time frame. Congratulations to everyone involved. We have also put significant funding of \$1.8 billion towards the women's and newborns' hospital, and concept design is underway.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has impacted on the construction industry, but this government is absolutely committed to doing everything we can to continue to deliver important health upgrades across our state.