

MEEKATHARRA HOSPITAL

**417. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the dilapidated state of Meekatharra Hospital and note Labor's 2017 election promise to build a new and modern health facility for this community.

- (1) When will construction on this project begin?
- (2) When will it be completed?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

Madam Speaker, it was brought to my attention that I have been calling you Madam President a couple of times. I apologise for that.

- (1)–(2) Meekatharra Hospital is a priority for the government and, like almost every construction project across Western Australia at the moment, is experiencing cost increases. That is the reality of building anything in Western Australia, whether in the residential or commercial building sector. We are absolutely committed to the project. We will continue to work through those issues, and we will go through the proper processes of government to ensure that we have the appropriate funding to support that project. But what we will not do is just continue to throw money around irresponsibly, as we saw under the previous government, despite having record revenue, and a complete lack of rigour, particularly around health projects. We have a record capital infrastructure investment across our WA Country Health Service. It is absolutely expansive and there has never been such an expansive capital works program. Projects are under cost pressures. We are working through those cost pressures, and we will work through the proper processes of government, and that is the Expenditure Review Committee of cabinet.