

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 82(1)(a) - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT 2006

QUESTION 13 OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS - 2022-23 BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARINGS

Pursuant to section 82(1)(a) of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I give notice to both Houses that I am unable to provide the information as requested in Question 13 of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations 2022-23 Budget Estimates Questions Prior to Hearings for WA Health.

Notice is also being provide to the Auditor General, as required under section 82(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

Question 13 asked: "*I refer to page 326 of Budget Paper 2 and the Meekatharra Hospital, and I ask: (a) Please table the business case for the project.*" Subsequent to this question an additional question was received by the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC to also table the Tom Price Hospital business case.

The Meekatharra Hospital and Tom Price Redevelopment business cases formed part of submissions to Cabinet and the Expenditure Review Committee for funding of the projects and as such is Cabinet-In-Confidence. Therefore, I respectfully decline to provide copies of these business cases at this time.

In making this decision I have considered the public interest and while the public has a general right of access to information held by government agencies, this right has to be balanced against the need to protect the confidentiality of Cabinet documents, discussion and decisions which is regarded as essential for the maintenance of Cabinet collective responsibility and frankness between Ministers and officers. Furthermore, the release of the document may also compromise Government's position on a number of issues.



**HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**

16 AUG 2022