

HEALTH — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

166. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Health:

Can the minister update the house on how the federal Labor opposition's \$110 million to WA hospitals would build on the McGowan Labor government's investment in our health system, including its funding for Royal Perth Hospital, and its commitment to Laverton Hospital?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I am very happy to take that question from the member, and thank her for her interest in a potential Shorten federal Labor victory in the forthcoming election. If it comes to pass, Western Australia will indeed benefit from some great policies, continuing to support the McGowan government's drive to put patients first in Western Australia. If the Shorten Labor team is successful, yesterday's announcement will mean that we will be building a clinical command centre at Royal Perth Hospital to provide care to patients across WA, at a cost of \$15 million; establishing a new multipurpose health clinic at Yanchep, where health services are sorely lacking, at a cost of \$18.2 million; and replacing the dilapidated and ageing infrastructure that is the Laverton Hospital with a new contemporary facility at a cost of \$12.8 million.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the first time

Mr R.H. COOK: I know that the member for North West Central will be voting Labor at the federal election in the not-too-distant future. In particular, we will see the upgrade of Collie Hospital's surgery facilities, at a cost of around \$12 million. Twenty-five new palliative care beds will be funded at Osborne Park Hospital to ensure that more people get the best possible care at the end of their lives. We will double the capacity of Albany hospital's dental clinic and provide dialysis facilities at Halls Creek in the Kimberley at a cost of around \$700 000. These are outstanding commitments.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the second time. You have a lot to say today.

Mr R.H. COOK: I know the member for North West Central's propensity for loyalty, so I am sure he will be voting Labor at the federal election, having seen a great opportunity for Western Australian patients to receive funding for these great resources. As the member for Belmont said, on top of the commitments around Joondalup Health Campus, which includes the construction of 75 mental health beds, and the rollout of new Medicare-funded MRI licences in Western Australia, the Shorten Labor team has also today committed to a \$20 million investment in methamphetamine and mental health-related services. These are outstanding commitments, which include a 10-bed withdrawal unit and mental health emergency centre at the Midland Public Hospital, a 10-bed withdrawal unit at the Peel Health Campus in Mandurah—yet another commitment by Labor to patients in the Peel region—a mental health emergency centre in Rockingham, as well as an alcohol and drugs urgent care clinic at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to match the outstanding success we have had around the development of that sort of facility at Royal Perth Hospital.

One thing the Premier has been keen for us to do is to work constructively with our colleagues in Canberra to make sure we get the best possible commitments for Western Australian patients—to make sure that WA gets its fair share of health funding and taxpayer dollars. If we do see an election of the Shorten Labor team at the coming federal election, there will be some outstanding commitments to Western Australian patients and residents.