

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH — INDEPENDENT INQUIRY REPORT

851. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the 30 recommendations from the independent inquiry into Perth Children's Hospital following the tragic death of Aishwarya Aswath, which was released more than two years ago. Given that the Premier made a personal commitment to Aishwarya's parents, Aswath and Prasitha, that this work would be undertaken as a priority, can he confirm that all 30 recommendations have now been implemented, including a dedicated supernumerary resuscitation team?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for Vasse for the question. Western Australia's hospitals are among the best in the nation, and that is a matter of which we are very proud. We have seen our hospital systems right across the nation impacted by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Western Australia's hospitals have responded better than any hospital system in the country. We are seeing a significant downward trajectory in ambulance ramping and some great numbers in elective surgery, and we continue to see our doctors and nurses striving ever harder to provide great health care in Western Australia, and about that we are immensely proud. We will continue to make sure that they receive the resources they need so that Western Australians know that only a WA Labor government will provide the resources and investment in their healthcare system to provide the best possible care and to put patients first. We will continue to strive to make sure that all hospital services meet the community's expectations and, when they do not, we will seek to find out what has gone wrong and provide answers for those who were negatively impacted and learn from those incidences to ensure that, as best we can, they will never happen again.

In relation to Aishwarya, we know that a range of issues needed looking into, and they have been responded to by my government. I regularly receive updates from the Minister for Health in her determination to make sure that we provide a positive response to these issues. As the member for Vasse observed, there are 30-odd recommendations. I have not received a contemporary briefing on these upgrades, but I know that we continue to be determined to get the best possible health outcomes for all Western Australians.