

MURDOCH MEDI-HOTEL — AEGIS HEALTH

731. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the documents obtained under freedom of information legislation that highlight that Fiona Stanley and Fremantle Hospitals do not have enough patients to fill the 80 beds that the state government acquired for the Murdoch medi-hotel in the \$55 million four-year deal with private operator Aegis Health. Why did the government approve the business case prepared by Aegis without seeking advice or clinical guidance from the South Metropolitan Health Service, or, at the very least, ensuring that the facility was configured for optimal service delivery?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I am often on my feet in this place defending the great work that happens in the health department and across our great hospitals; usually it is about the lack of hospital beds. I think the critique today is that there are too many beds. There is no pleasing those on the other side. They are never happy. They are so negative and always take the opportunity to run down our great doctors and nurses in our health system, who are doing such an incredible job day in, day out.

I believe the member is referencing a letter that was written by a leader in our health system about two years ago. It is great to see that those beds will come onstream now. Any new beds are a great opportunity for us to utilise them to make sure that we can create spaces in our more acute wards. This will be a great opportunity. It is a commitment we made in 2017 and it is great to see these beds now coming onstream in a partnership with the private sector, which is obviously another important feature of that facility. I think that precinct at Fiona Stanley Hospital is called the knowledge centre. It is a great addition to the precinct. We are really excited about how it will enhance healthcare services right across the board, whether it is aged care, accommodation, the medi-hotel, primary healthcare services or specialist facilities. This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate a growing health service that can accommodate the huge demand on our system, and everyone, including those opposite, should take the opportunity to celebrate it.