

ELECTIVE SURGERY — WAITLISTS

**235. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Seriously; it is not that funny.

**Ms L. METTAM:** Given these poor health outcomes, how does the Premier justify spending only \$40 million on boosting elective surgery compared with an additional \$2 billion on Metronet blowouts last year, given patients such as Shelley French —

**The SPEAKER:** No further comment; you have asked your question.

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

We invested an extra \$40 million in an elective surgery waitlist blitz at the end of last year. We are cognisant of the pressure that our health system is under, which is the reason why expenditure on health care has grown so much under our watch, and why the number of nurses and doctors in our health system has increased so much. Do members know who are reaping the benefits of that? It is the people of Western Australia, because they know that we are putting patients first, and they know that they live in a state with the best health system in the country.