

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL

141. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier confirm for Western Australian families that construction of this much-needed facility will start this year as promised?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

We will get construction underway on a new women's and babies' hospital as soon as we can. All I would say is that we have to plan it properly, and there are a lot of issues in doing so. I think King Edward Memorial Hospital has been there since 1916, and no government since that time has come up with a plan or announced a new women's and babies' hospital. Our government has done that, and because of our financial management the state will be able to afford it. We will make sure that we build that new women's and babies' hospital, but that will take some time. While that is ongoing, continuous work will be done, as is required, to ensure that King Edward Memorial Hospital will continue to provide a wonderful service for women and babies across the state.