

HEALTH — SPECIALIST ACCESS — WAITLIST

212. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister admit that the pain that Shelly will now have to live with for the rest of her life as a result of a four-year wait is a result of failing to address this hidden waitlist?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I might point out to the Leader of the Liberal Party that the central critical service of the new women's and newborns' hospital is women's health and gynaecological care, so one of the points —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The main point of having a brand new women's hospital is to be able to treat women with gynaecological conditions and gynaecological cancers. It is not just a maternity hospital, which the Leader of the Liberal Party is solely focused on. Our decision to bring that hospital to delivery point at Murdoch will actually make sure that women are delivered that hospital sooner and will have better access to gynaecological care. Currently, those women often have specialists negotiate with hospitals for theatre time around the metropolitan area. We are building a brand new women's hospital that will enable those women to be seen more quickly so that they can receive faster care through a tertiary specialist service. The opposition would delay that by up to 20 years.

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