

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT — RESUSCITATION TEAM

750. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the importance of having a dedicated supernumerary resuscitation team in place at the Perth Children's Hospital, which was one of the five recommendations contained in the coronial inquest into the death of Aishwarya Aswath Chavittupara. As the prior Minister for Health, and given that he insisted that this had been funded as far back as August 2021, can the Premier explain why the implementation of a full complement of supernumerary resuscitation nursing staff has not occurred after more than two years?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Of course, this would have been a great question for the Minister for Health, but I know she has the member for Vasse well and truly under her thumb, so I am not surprised she put the question to me—but that is okay because it is health, and I love health.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Premier, can I ask you to pause for a moment? Member for Vasse, you have asked the question. You have interjected incessantly. The Premier has barely been able to get a couple of sentences out. Can you please desist? You have asked a question; can we listen to the answer, please?

Mr R.H. COOK: I love health questions because it is one of the areas that I am most passionate about, particularly after 13 and a half years in that portfolio. I care about our health system and the great care it provides for everyone in Western Australia.

There is no more important healthcare service than the Perth Children's Hospital, which provides great care for children and rightfully has a global reputation for excellence in care. That is why the Minister for Health has put a lot of work into continuing to make sure that we can respond to any situations in which we identify a gap in care—that includes in the emergency department. It is true to say that we are making progress in relation to the supernumerary resuscitation team, and that work is progressing to date. It is also true to say that the priority identified by the staff is, from their perspective, more in relation to getting the nurse-to-patient ratios right before we complete work on the supernumerary resuscitation team. That work will continue, but at the moment our priority is to make sure we get the nurse-to-patient ratios right. That is an approach that the Minister for Health has been working on with the Australian Nursing Federation and the workforce, and we will continue in that vein.