

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — MENTAL HEALTH UNIT — ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT

702. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the Premier has stated that there were signs that were clearly missed, why were the serious safety issues not made a priority under his watch, given the number of reports pointing to this?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I am not quite sure what the premise of the question is. What I think we should be looking at today is the excellent response from the Minister for Health and the great work that she has done to continue to make sure —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.H. COOK: — that we understand and take into account the circumstances, investigate, and, ultimately, remedy. That is the work she is doing. I think the community should take great confidence from that, understanding that we have the resources to be able to make these important investments because we have protected the state's finances. We are committed to continuing to put patients at the centre of everything we do and continuing to make improvements. That stands in contrast with the outrageous, rank politicisation of these sorts of issues —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: Madam Speaker, I think the member's response today to this important issue speaks volumes about the attitude and tone she has brought to this particular debate. She continues to shout from the other benches, trying to interrupt me. She is trying to interrupt professionals who are going about their work to continue to improve health care in Western Australia. As I said, we have made record investments in health care in Western Australia—a record \$10 billion since 2021–22. That is another sign that this government puts priority on our health care and the care of people in our health system. We do not always get it right and our doctors and nurses working on the front line do not always get it right, but it is important that we provide the resources and support they need to continue to do amazing work on behalf of the people of Western Australia. It is important that we continue to make the investments we need so that those doctors and nurses can integrate the best learnings of their discipline in the work that they do. We are very proud of their work. What we are not proud of is the rank politicisation that takes place around these sorts of issues. There have been accusations that there has been some sort of veil of secrecy in relation to this, and yet we see all these issues actually explained and set out in court cases, which are there for the public to see.

We will continue to make sure that we continue to improve our healthcare system, but what we will not do is listen to the ridiculous noise and the politicisation of these issues from the other side. We will continue to work with the people who are impacted by these incidents, learn the lessons in relation to them, and continue to make the investments we need to ensure that we have world-class health care in Western Australia.