

AMBULANCE RAMPING — ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITLISTS

371. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. How can the Premier possibly continue to hide behind COVID when seven of the eight worst-performing emergency departments are here in WA?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

We have increased significantly the amount of funding to our emergency departments, with \$75 million in the last budget alone to address ED pressures and ambulance ramping. There has been \$542.7 million of total investment since 2021. That is another example of a government that invests in its health system, and that is because this is in WA Labor's DNA. We understand the importance of a public health system that provides equality of access to health care right across the state. It does not matter whether people are in the regions or in the heart of the western suburbs; we want to make sure that everyone has access to affordable, world-class health care. We are doing that with our record levels of investment and we are continuing to see constant improvements, having come out of the post-COVID period.