

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL — MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY CENTRE

**891. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant investment in mental health care services, such as the new Mental Health Emergency Centre that was opened today at Royal Perth Hospital. Can the minister outline to the house how this new emergency centre will support those who experience an acute mental health episode, take pressure off existing emergency departments and deliver on this government's commitment to putting patients first?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

It is a sad reality that an increasing cohort of patients present in our emergency departments with mental health issues and that obviously produces complications for those providing care in the emergency departments. I was very pleased to join not only the member for Mount Lawley, but also Hon Alanna Clohesy, to open the new Mental Health Emergency Centre at Royal Perth Hospital. It is a new \$1.15 million emergency centre at Royal Perth Hospital that honours a key election commitment by the McGowan government to implement a mental health observation area at Royal Perth Hospital. The centre is located next to the hospital's emergency department and is designed for people to stay for up to 72 hours. It includes eight treatment spaces, which is made up of six beds and two chairs, and is staffed by specialised and highly trained mental health professionals. This is an outstanding result in resourcing our hospitals to make sure that they have the resources they need to care for patients who present with mental health issues. This is a low-stimulus, short-stay environment so that patients who present with mental health issues do not have to stay in the loud, bright environment of an emergency department main area. They can go to this area where they are secure and where other patients are not necessarily impacted by those who present with a mental health issue. This is a great addition to our emergency department services. I was absolutely delighted to open this centre, which is right next to the urgent care clinic toxicology unit at Royal Perth Hospital ED, which treats patients who present with alcohol and other drug issues. It has been an outstanding success and has taken the pressure off the main ED. It provides a specialised treatment facility for those particular patients. Of course, this comes on top of the other commitments for Royal Perth Hospital, including the \$22.7 million upgrade to the intensive care unit and the \$9 million helipad upgrade, which will further enhance Royal Perth Hospital's critical services and patient care.

The McGowan government continues to invest heavily in mental health services, particularly mental health services in our emergency departments. We recently announced a \$1 million investment in the forward plan for a new mental health emergency centre at Midland hospital, which we are looking forward to open sometime in 2021. If we are to meet the needs of Western Australian patients, particularly mental health patients, and if we are to provide the resources for doctors and nurses working on the front line in providing care to these patients, we need a government that is prepared to invest in health, a government that will put in the resources and a government that is prepared to put patients first, and that is what we have with the McGowan Labor government.