

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — STAFF

**322. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the privatisation of frontline services by the Nationals and Liberals, and the McGowan Labor government's commitment to bringing those services back into public hands. Can the minister update the house on the work underway of bringing non-clinical services at Fiona Stanley Hospital back into the public sector; and can the minister outline to the house how this government's responsible financial management has allowed this important policy to be delivered?

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

I thank the member for the question. I am very proud to say, on behalf of the McGowan government, that this is another commitment signed, sealed and delivered.

Government members: Hear, hear!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** This government is committed to putting patients first, and we want to make sure that we bring as many of these public-facing services back into the public sector as is humanly possible. As of yesterday, staff working in the cleaning, patient catering and internal logistics areas of Fiona Stanley Hospital are officially back in public hands. We have been able to deliver on this important policy because of the financial management to which the member refers. It is only because we have properly stewarded the state's finances that we can use the state's finances in the interests of the WA public to improve public sector services. I am very proud to welcome 633 new staff to the South Metropolitan Health Service as part of the Fiona Stanley Hospital team.

We all remember the debacle of the commissioning of Fiona Stanley Hospital, overseen by members opposite. It was a woeful performance, driven by the previous government's ideological commitment to privatising wherever it could, much to the detriment of our public services. As was said by the director general at the time, patient-facing services should be run as part of a hospital team, not hived off for profit by the private sector.

I am very proud of the commitment we made and I am even prouder now of the great work that has gone into delivering on this commitment. I want to thank the Department of Health, the South Metropolitan Health Service and Serco for the great work they have done together to make sure we bring these important healthcare services back into the public sector and back into public hands to put patients first.