

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL

586. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Health:

I note that during the parliamentary recess we have finally seen some work underway at Fiona —
Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: He is not the sharpest tool in the shed, but he is the biggest, is he not?

Mr M. McGowan: He's not going to make you a minister; he's not going to. I wouldn't.

The SPEAKER: Member for Rockingham! I would like the member for Jandakot to ask the question, not make a statement.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I note the work that is finally underway at the Fiona Stanley Hospital site, and I ask the minister whether he can advise —

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I ask the minister whether he can advise the house what progress is being made with Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

I thank the member for Jandakot for the question. I think he used the word “finally” extremely well. Obviously, he has a personal interest in the construction of Fiona Stanley Hospital, which is in his electorate. Recently, I was very pleased to go out there for the opening of the offices, accompanied by the member for Alfred Cove, who always finds a way to have something to do with Fiona Stanley Hospital. It really was good to see something finally happen. Members will recall that during the lead-up to the last election, we went out to that site because the government of the day had announced that finally construction of Fiona Stanley Hospital was starting. We went out there and all we could see was bush—just bush; nothing whatsoever had been done.

Mr C.J. Barnett: A sign?

Dr K.D. HAMES: There was a sign, yes! There was a magnificent sign.

Mr R.F. Johnson: There's always a sign.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes; “It's gonna happen; the great new hospital of Western Australia is gonna happen!” Finally, something is happening on that site. If members go out to the site, they will notice that all the bush has been cleared and the sandpit is ready. The office for the staff who will undertake all the work has been constructed. I was pleased to do the official opening. Up to 120 staff will be working on the construction of the hospital, including a lot of engineers, design operators and project managers.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: A great Labor project.

Dr K.D. HAMES: It is a great project. As I said when we were in opposition, when the Labor Party took over in government, built some of the things that we funded and then took the credit for them, we would be very happy getting into government, completing the construction and making the announcements. I will ask the former Minister for Health to be part of the opening; I will be very pleased to have him there. We are finally seeing something happen on that site. Twelve hundred staff will be located on that site. Before the end of this year we will see the first load of concrete. It is a great step forward. This is a government that gets on and does things. Unlike the other side that was always gonna do things, we are finally getting things started.