

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS — LEGAL CONSULTANTS

119. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the proposed public-private partnerships outlined for Fiona Stanley, Princess Margaret, Midland, Busselton and Albany hospitals.

- (1) Is an external legal firm being used for these public-private partnerships; and, if so, which company is being used and how was it chosen?
- (2) What is the total cost to use external legal consultants, and is the cost of employing the legal consultants coming out of the total budget for these developments?
- (3) How much has been spent to date on legal costs?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question.

- (1) Currently, public-private partnerships are not proposed for the delivery of Fiona Stanley Hospital, Busselton health campus or Albany health campus. The government has announced its intention to deliver the new children's hospital—the replacement for Princess Margaret Hospital for Children—and Midland health campus as PPPs. External legal advisers for these projects have recently been appointed by the State Solicitor on the basis of experience, capability and overall value for money to the state. The external legal advisers are Clayton Utz for the new children's hospital, and Freehills and Clayton Utz for the Midland health campus.
- (2) Legal costs for these projects will be met from the respective capital works budgets. As both projects are in the planning stage and legal work has yet to commence, the total cost of legal fees has not yet been separately determined from within the overall allowance for client management costs.
- (3) As above, as the projects are in early development, no external legal costs have been incurred to date.