

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL

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

I refer the minister to question time on Tuesday when he answered a question on deliberately deceptive and misleading advertising about Midland health campus by a federal Labor candidate. The minister referred in his answer to a major new contract being signed for Fiona Stanley Hospital located in my electorate.

Mr E.S. Ripper interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The Leader of the Opposition should not worry; 11 more days and his leadership can explode. Just be silent for a moment. Does this mean that Fiona Stanley Hospital —

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: After the federal election, members can implode on each other.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: If I were a ventriloquist, member for Mandurah, I might not attempt to throw my voice that far. I formally call you for the first time. Member for Jandakot, I suggest that you stick to the question.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Does this mean —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I formally call you for the first time, along with the member for Cannington. I just want to hear the question, member for Jandakot. I do not want to hear from anybody else.

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

Does this mean that Fiona Stanley Hospital is still progressing on time and on budget under this government?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

That is an excellent question. What was the first bit again?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Misleading advertising.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I am not sure that I heard that.

I did happen to mention my discourse on misleading statements by the member for Hasluck about Fiona Stanley Hospital. The second stage of the contract has been awarded to Brookfield Multiplex, and that amount is \$1.63 billion for stage 2. That then brings the total of the money that is being expended close to the \$1.76 billion that was allocated for this project, and just indicates to everyone that this project is now proceeding, not only on time but also quite clearly on budget. There had been some speculation by a certain component of the media, which I do not see in the press gallery, and the publication comes out only once a week, suggesting that the budget for Fiona Stanley Hospital was going to be significantly overrun, but now we have a fixed contract for the rest of the construction of the hospital. We are also going to be proceeding with the allocation of \$255.7 million for the state rehabilitation service, which will bring the total project to over \$2 billion.

Mr E.S. Ripper: Unless Tony Abbott cuts the funding, of course.

Dr K.D. HAMES: No, because we have already had that allocated. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, we work hand in glove with what will soon be the former federal government. We have been very pleased to get that funding contribution to Midland and to Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: Do you trust Tony Abbott to maintain all that?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Indeed I do. We are good mates. I have got his direct phone number in my pocket. We will make sure that we get on with that job. I do give credit to the former government for the project.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr E.S. Ripper: He is giving credit!

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes. The difference of course is that when we came to government there had been numerous announcements and signs but there was nothing. Now when people drive down the freeway they can see an enormous change and a massive hospital being developed. It is a great project. We are very pleased to see that it is coming in on budget. A little pressure has started to be placed on the building industry as the economy

recovers, but the price has come in exactly as was expected in all the modelling that has been done. We are very pleased to see that project well on its way to completion. Members will notice it is a very short answer.