

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS — HEALTH SOLUTIONS (WA)

**710. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Health:**

The opposition has raised allegations in this house recently in relation to the Liberal–National government and the management of the Peel Health Campus. Since these allegations were made, has the minister had cause to reflect on them and can he please update the house on this matter?

**Dr K.D. HAMES replied:**

Yes, I have had cause to reflect somewhat on these matters.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** To start with, I am a bit uncomfortable answering this question in the absence of the member for Mandurah—I found out earlier that he is sick. This is not about him, it is about his electorate, and it is not being suggested in any way that he has done anything untoward. What I am talking about is the hypocrisy of the Labor Party in attacking us through Jon Fogarty, trying to get to our candidate for Mandurah and talking about donations from Health Solutions to the Liberal Party. Before I start I want to show a little graph that shows the funding for Peel Health Campus during the years of the Labor government. It is quite a simple little chart. Members will notice that the growth in funding goes along at about five per cent and then, funnily enough, just before the 2004 election, the growth increases by 25 per cent. Then it drops back to five or six per cent—remember I am reading backwards through the paper here!—then just before the 2008 election it jumps up to nearly 15 per cent. I wonder what would have influenced those increases? I remember that the Labor Party was not happy at Peel Health Campus at the time. Jon Fogarty had been running ads against the member for Mandurah in the local papers, against my advice telling him that I did not think it was appropriate.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** It was a public hospital running a political campaign.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Exactly right—a public hospital running a political campaign against a member. It is a serious problem and I do not think the Labor Party would be too happy with that. But guess what? Was the Labor Party unhappy with that or not? What did the Labor Party do? It was getting attacked in the media; Jon Fogarty was having a crack at it attacking its local member in Mandurah, so what did the Labor Party do? It sent an invoice to Health Solutions, which I intend to table along with these other papers. The Labor Party sent an invoice—“Australian Labor Party, tax invoice, Health Solutions, 110 Lakes Road, 15 grand, thanks very much”! Fifteen grand—wow! What did the Labor Party want that for?

**Mr R.H. Cook:** How much did you invoice them for?

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** We know that we got 15 grand the same year. We know we have said that, the same —

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I formally call you to order for the first time today. I suggest to other members that they might want to interject a little less at this point.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** This invoice is dated 25 August 2008, which I think is about a week and a half before the election. It is: “There you go, Health Solutions. You’ve been giving us a kick. We’re not very happy with what you’re doing to our local member.” There was a phone conversation somewhere: “Okay, we will give you 15 grand”; “Fine, you’re going to give us 15 grand.” In goes the invoice; there is the receipt.

The next item is dated 3 September. Here is the invoice from Health Solutions for the 15 grand. It is, “You better pay us that money just before the election, because otherwise, if we win this election —

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** He is trying to shut me up. He is trying to yell constantly because he does not want to hear.

**The SPEAKER:** There are various people in this place who have an interest in what you are saying, Minister for Health. I would like to provide them with the opportunity to hear what you are saying.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Thanks, Mr Speaker. I would, myself.

So here we go, a couple of days before the election: “You give us the money. Okay, that’s a receipt for it.”

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Table the Liberal document.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** We know we got 15 grand. It was about the same time. I do not have those, because I do not know —

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, I formally call you to order for the first and second time today.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** The last document is one that came after the election. Sadly, the election had been lost. The letter is back to Peel Health Campus, titled “Re: Donation to Mandurah ALP Campaign”. This comes from the Mandurah sub-branch of the Labor Party, not from the head office. The Mandurah sub-branch sent a letter back to Health Solutions saying —

On behalf of the ALP Candidate for Mandurah, David Templeman, the Mandurah ALP Campaign acknowledges and thanks you for your donation to the Campaign during the 2008 State Election.

There is nothing wrong with getting donations. That highlights the hypocrisy of the Labor Party having a crack. This letter is dated 12 October, so it was straight after the election; the month after the election.

**Mr J.R. Quigley** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mindarie, I formally call you to order for the first time today. I do not want to hear any voices at all, Leader of the Opposition. Question time started at 12.17 pm. It is now 28 minutes to one. That is as subtle as I am going to be.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** I am not accusing the member for Mandurah. In fact, I have a lot of respect for him. It is his branch that sent a letter back. He got a donation; he said thanks. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. What is wrong is the hypocrisy of the Labor Party coming in here and trying to tie our candidate for Mandurah into this. Who are the people who are objecting the most from the other side? It is the member for Kwinana, who brought in this issue, trying to be dirty and sneaky and having a go at that member in the first place; and the person who happened to be in charge of the Labor Party at the time when all of this went on. They knew what they got. They knew that they put in an invoice. They knew that they had obviously had some sort of phone call.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I do not need to hear from you, although you have been referred to, I would assume. I am only assuming that, member for Cannington.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The reality is that this shows hypocrisy at its worst. The Liberal Party did get donations. At about the same time, the Labor Party did get a \$15 000 donation. It did not come to me, running in that electorate; that was my area as well. I did not even know the donation existed. It went to the local member in the Labor Party in Mandurah to support his campaign. The member comes in here to try to make it look as though our candidate is somehow grubby because of a donation to the Liberal Party. I table these documents.

[See paper 5576.]