

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEDICAL CENTRE — CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

**286. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Health:**

I understand that the minister has just returned from the start of the construction of yet another hospital project that is being delivered by the Liberal–National government.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** With Labor money that was set aside in a dedicated account!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members! I want to hear the question. Continue, please, member for Scarborough.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I enjoy their support, Mr Speaker!

Can the minister please explain to the house how the expansion of the state’s new comprehensive cancer centre at Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre and the continued delivery of the state’s strategic hospital plan will benefit health service delivery in the state?

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

I thank the member for the question. It is great to recollect past events that have occurred in this house. I remember sitting where the member for Victoria Park is while the former Minister for Health was on his feet regaling us about the things he was going to do in building hospitals. I said to him, “You’ve done absolutely nothing while you’ve been in government. You put all this money aside, but you’ve done nothing about building hospitals.” I said, “We will be on that side of the house and we will build those hospitals. Parliament has approved the money; we will build the hospitals and we’ll take credit for them when we do.” So here I am! Here I am to take credit for construction! I was at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital today—the QEII site—and two buildings are currently under construction, being stage 2 of the cancer centre, and the new pathology building. Each building will cost about \$54 million, so that is over \$100 million worth of construction, and it really is good to see. I recall that when the former government first came to office it claimed credit for building Geraldton hospital, which happened to be in the previous Liberal government’s plans and forward estimates. I think Halls Creek hospital was a similar event, whereby the former Labor government went out there and had its sign up saying “Here we are” and taking credit for that. Mr Speaker, not only has this government gone out and started constructing some of the buildings that were there under the former government but also we are well underway in the building of the new Princess Margaret Hospital. We have added in Shenton Park hospital, we are well underway with plans for the construction of Midland hospital, and a lot of hospitals in rural areas have been added to our program. This government is getting on with the business of construction.