

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

**358. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Sunday's historic and unprecedented transfer of children from Princess Margaret Hospital for Children to the Perth Children's Hospital that is now operational.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house on the success of the transfer and the hospital's first full day of operation?
- (2) Once again, can the minister outline to the house how it was only because of the decisive action taken by the McGowan Labor government that this hospital could open at all?

**The SPEAKER:** The very humble Minister for Health.

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) I would like to thank the member for the question and I hope, as the member has some young children, that they never have to go to that facility. But if they do, she can be confident that her kids will be cared for by world-class clinicians operating in a state-of-the-art hospital.

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for South Perth!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** I am very pleased to say that as of Sunday night, the new Perth Children's Hospital emergency department is now open for business. On Sunday, 91 patients—that is, WA's sickest kids at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children—were transferred to the new Perth Children's Hospital. This included 15 neonatal intensive care unit babies and seven intensive care patients. It was the biggest medical move of young patients in this state's history. It was made possible only by the dedication of the 650 staff who meticulously planned and carried out this very careful transfer of the patients, and by holding the safety of those patients uppermost in their minds. It involved staff from PMH, PCH, Main Roads, the WA Police Force and a convoy of ambulances making their way between the two hospitals. I am very pleased to say that on its first night of operation, the emergency department saw 185 young patients with 21 of those children admitted and five operational procedures taking place. On Monday night, last night, over 200 patients received care at the emergency department.

It is all systems go at the Perth Children's Hospital. This is a very proud day for health care in this state. This is the most important development for child health to have taken place in over a century. We are all feeling very melancholy about the retirement of Princess Margaret Hospital, but be under no illusions—the Perth Children's Hospital has world-class clinicians and they have a world-class hospital to operate in. This would not necessarily be possible if it was not for the decisive action taken by this government to bring this hospital to bear. The Premier made a solemn commitment to the people of WA upon getting elected: we will take control of this hospital, resolve the issues and open it as safely and as quickly as possible. This has been the biggest test of my time as the Minister for Health. It has been a difficult process. I would like to thank the Treasurer for his assistance in making sure that we got this hospital open. This was one of the most reluctant of hospitals to open, but I am very pleased to say that this hospital is now open for business. It is open for business only because we took the decisive decisions.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Dawesville for the first time and the member for Burns Beach for the first time.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** We have done what the former government failed to do. The McGowan government was committed to opening Perth Children's Hospital safely and it is providing great care as we speak. It was not easy but we are proud to have delivered this facility for the kids of Western Australia. We are proud of the staff who have made this happen, we are proud of the commissioning teams that carried this process out so carefully, and we are proud of this health system that continues to provide great care for the sick kids of WA.