

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL PROTECTION BILL 2013 — CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

Statement

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [6.20 pm]: Mr President, last night, Hon Nick Goiran made some comments about me and called on me to apologise to the house and to take certain action. He said also that a failure on my part to take certain action would result in him writing to you to lodge a formal complaint. I turn first to Hon Nick Goiran's request that I apologise to the house for what he described as a gross error in respect to a reference in the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill 2013 to certain certificates of title. I do not believe that I owe the house an apology for my conduct. I acted on the best information provided to me. I gave an undertaking on the record that I will take up the member's query with my colleague the shadow Minister for Health, and I have done so. I said on the record as well that I could not give the house a commitment, or the member a commitment, to come back and table the certificates of title, but I could give an undertaking to raise the query with my colleague.

The second issue that Hon Nick Goiran raised last night was his intention to lodge a formal complaint about me for my failure to date to get back to him on the commitment that I would raise with my colleague the shadow Minister for Health the member's other query about who the shadow Minister for Health had consulted with in respect to the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill.

I do not need to apologise to the house, Mr President, because clearly I did not understand that there was some urgency to Hon Nick Goiran having available to him a list of the health stakeholders with whom my colleague the shadow Minister for Health was in discussion about the future of Royal Perth Hospital in the lead-up to 15 May 2013 when my colleague read the bill into the other place. I appreciate the special attention that I get from Hon Nick Goiran. I am usually pretty good at reading the play from him. However, in this case, I was clearly wrong. I did not pick up that it was urgent, or that there was a particular time frame within which the honourable member needed to know the regular health stakeholders with whom the shadow Minister for Health was in conversation about the protection of Royal Perth Hospital.

The issues the member raised during the committee stage have been brought to the attention of my colleague the shadow Minister for Health. Indeed, the morning after the bill passed through this place, the shadow Minister for Health suggested to me that he thought he owed me a bottle of wine for the carriage of that bill. Today, I suggested to him that, based on last night's performance, he owes me two bottles of wine. If Hon Nick Goiran genuinely believes that my failure to respond to his queries within his own time frame of urgency—a time frame that I was not aware of—is worthy of a formal complaint, he should go right ahead and lodge a formal complaint.