

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN — SURVEY —  
STAFF MORALE, CLINICAL SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

I refer to the recent survey of staff at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, the findings of which were reported in *The West Australian* on Friday. Can the minister advise what action is being taken to address the issues raised in the survey on staff morale, clinical safety and infrastructure?

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

I would like to thank the member for the question.

I have read the report presented by Bryant Stokes, the chair of the North Metropolitan Health Service, and I have to say that it makes sobering reading. It is a report that goes into the issue of staff morale at our tertiary maternity hospital—staff who are providing some of the highest level of health care to our mothers and babies in the state—and it is disturbing reading. I have said in this place before that there is only one task more important than looking after patients in our hospitals—that is, looking after the staff who provide that care. That is why we have undertaken a very careful program of valuing staff, listening to staff and making sure that we can reverse these issues when they arise. In particular, I have written to the North Metropolitan Health Service board and its chair Bryant Stokes, expressing my serious concerns about the key issues identified in the report—as I did for the Child and Adolescent Health Service board—and requesting regular reports about what it is doing to correct the issues as they relate to the hospital. It is true to say that these issues have not emerged in only the last eight months, but we are going to be taking very deliberate action to make sure we get on top of the issue associated with that hospital.

As the member said, they go to the question of staff morale. We have already held a range of staff forums—two on 24 and 27 November—and we will have another in January. It goes to the question of clinical safety. Recently a report was handed down that looked at clinical safety across our entire system, but, in particular, we want to ensure in this instance that the issues of culture and clinical governance do not put clinical safety in danger. Of course, there are questions of infrastructure associated with King Edward Memorial Hospital. Members will be aware that under the previous Labor government, the Reid review pointed to a long-term plan for our hospital system and a new big tertiary hospital in the southern suburbs, which recommended moving not only the children's hospital to the QEII campus, but also King Edward Memorial Hospital to the QEII campus to get the synergies we were looking for. I was not only surprised but, indeed, gobsmacked to hear the member for Nedlands on the radio on Sunday, saying that we should be looking at moving the hospital there because although he went there a decade ago—even though that hospital is in his electorate—he said that even back then it looked kind of old. It is true, members. It would be great if we could look to move King Edward Memorial Hospital to that site, but one thing is impacting on that objective.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Metronet.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** It is your mismanagement of the state's finances. We would love the luxury of completing the Reid vision for our hospital system, but we cannot because of the mismanagement of that mob. It is not that they did not want to do it. In 2011, Hon Kim Hames said, "Yes. We will be making sure that King Eddy's makes its move across to the QEII campus, and it should be there by 2015."

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** What happened?

**Mr R.H. COOK:** The same thing that happened at Royal Perth Hospital, member—nothing. This other mob in government time and time again were dangling little carrots about implementing changes to the hospital system. Instead, they found funding for projects like Elizabeth Quay and other projects, but could not get it quite within their task to either implement one of their key election commitments from 2008 or follow through with their other policies around moving King Edward Memorial Hospital to the new site. We will endeavour to fix the issues associated with staff morale at that hospital. We will move forward in deliberate action. We have a good program in place to make sure we get on top of these issues and we will fix the mess left by that mob.