

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — LEAD CONTAMINATION

326. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Health:

I note the minister's comments on the release of the final Jacobs Australia Pty Ltd report on 3 May identifying the source of lead as dezincification. Can he please explain why, on page 19 of the final Jacobs report, it specifically rules out thermostatic mixing valves as a source of the lead?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I am afraid the member will have to ask the authors of the report that. I do not know whether that is what it says on page 19.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, you have just asked a question and now you are trying to answer it. Just let the minister have his say. You can have a supplementary question.

Dr M.D. Nahan: He's trying to weasel out of his statement!

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the first time. You should be setting the example for the rest of your troops.

Mr M.P. Murray: Bring back Matt!

The SPEAKER: And bring back the member for Collie–Preston. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr R.H. COOK: As I said, I do not know what is on page 19 of the Jacobs report. What I know is that there is only one opinion that matters and that is the opinion of the Chief Health Officer, which is the reason we took the steps we did to make sure that we could get in there. Does it not strike members as extraordinary that this mob over here knows so much about this hospital now but knew so little about it when it was actually in office? It strikes me as amazing that, all of a sudden, members opposite have an acute interest in issues around brass fittings but before were seemingly blind and incapable of resolving the issues around the water.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: It's your responsibility now.

Mr R.H. COOK: Exactly, member! Exactly!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: Members opposite have at last realised we are here!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I know you think you are the Messiah, Minister for Health, but you are not, so do not get the crowd going. Members, just let us get through this question quickly.

Mr R.H. COOK: Exactly, member for Scarborough—we are in government and you are not. There is a reason for that; you stuffed up project after project after project. I wonder what is going to happen first—the footbridge or the hospital? We find ourselves in government with the state's finances completely wrecked and with public infrastructure projects that were so incompetently handled that we now have to take control.

The SPEAKER: Through the Chair, minister.

Mr R.H. COOK: As I said, there is only one opinion that matters. It is not the opposition's; it is the Chief Health Officer's. He is the one who will decide whether we have achieved the quality of water levels that we need to make sure that we provide quality, world-class health care at this hospital. It is not going to be that mob!