

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — PRACTICAL COMPLETION

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

I refer to Perth Children's Hospital. Why did this government accept practical completion and what work would not have happened had the government not accepted practical completion and let this saga drag on like the previous Liberal-National government let it drag on?

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

I thank the member for the question. As a member who has young children, I know she is particularly interested in this issue. The facts are that if we had not taken practical completion, the hospital may never have opened.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** The Premier undertook some solemn commitments in relation to Perth Children's Hospital. He said we should take control and we have taken control. He said we should fix the problem and we should get that hospital open as soon as possible.

An opposition member interjected.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** Member, it has worked out a lot better for us than it did for you, because rather than allowing the whole saga to fester —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, it is a wall of noise. Please, you have asked a question; let him answer it.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** Rather than allowing the whole saga to fester, as it was under the former government, we are getting on and fixing the problem. Granting practical completion with the water defects has allowed us to get into the building, get on with the process of resolving these issues and start the process of commissioning. I look forward to providing more information on that process to the WA public tomorrow. Of course, the first people we will provide that information to are the staff of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, who are the ones perhaps doing it the toughest in waiting for this hospital to open. Granting practical completion has allowed us to get on with the job of doing the commissioning. It does not get the contractor off the hook because, like any building project, for a time that contractor will be liable for a range of defects. However, as the member asked, what would we not have been allowed to do if we had not taken practical completion? We would have not been able to administer the polyphosphate process to resolve the lead issues; we would not have been able to undertake the clinical scenario testing with external services, including police and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; we would not have been able to implement the security systems and test their controlling and monitoring; we would not have been able to undertake the processing of surgical instruments; and we would not have been able to undertake the stocking and preparation of ward areas, the tagging of assets —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** — and the testing of critical systems. The fact of the matter is that by having unfettered access to this building, we are shortening the commissioning process, which will allow us to open this —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! We have young schoolchildren in the chamber up the top there. You are setting a really good example today. I hope you are proud of yourselves!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** We would not have had the unfettered access to that building that will allow us to undertake this process. The fact of the matter is that every step that we take now takes us closer to opening the hospital, once the Chief Health Officer has given us the pathway forward for opening that hospital. One thing I can assure all members of is that we are getting on with the job and we are fixing the problems left to us by the Liberal-National government.