

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — OBSTETRIC AND NEONATAL SERVICES

**372. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to a press article last week that stated that Fiona Stanley Hospital was to provide a major boost to obstetric and neonatal services, but the report did not say when this was to happen. Can the minister clarify when Fiona Stanley Hospital is to provide this major boost to obstetric and neonatal services in this state?

**Dr K.D. HAMES replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Fiona Stanley Hospital is an interesting case in point on what the Premier just pointed out. A great new sign was put up saying that Fiona Stanley is happening, yet absolutely nothing happened. The former government got the bulldozers out to clear the land and still nothing happened because nothing was ready to go. The Labor Party made a major change to Fiona Stanley Hospital. It promised that it would build an obstetric and neonatal unit in stage 1 of Fiona Stanley Hospital. It put back the start date of that project two or three years. It was originally to start in 2010 but it was finally determined that it would start in 2013. That obstetric and neonatal unit was pushed out into stage 2. Stage 2 was supported by the member for Alfred Cove, who said that it had to come on, but there was no start date, no money and nothing done towards stage 2. Obstetric facilities in that building were to be built far into the future.

One of the benefits of retaining Royal Perth Hospital is that we have now been able to provide space in the 630-odd bed Fiona Stanley Hospital for a 30-bed obstetric unit and an 18-bed neonatal unit. As well as that, an eight-bed facility for women who have postnatal depression will allow mothers and their babies to be looked after properly in the hospital. This is a great boon for the southern part of the metropolitan area. Woodside Maternity Hospital, a hospital very much valued by the local community for women having babies, was closed by the former government. Its facilities were moved to Kaleeya Hospital; otherwise mothers had to go to Bentley Hospital or King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. Enormous pressure will be taken off King Edward. That hospital had a huge surge in the number of deliveries. About 2 500 deliveries are currently made at King Edward that would otherwise be suitable for delivery in the southern suburbs. This is a great step forward. It will commence in 2013 with the opening of Fiona Stanley Hospital. It is on time and on budget.