

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — LEAD CONTAMINATION

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's decision to take control of Perth Children's Hospital and its commitment to opening this world-class facility. Can the minister update the house on the remediation works that are currently being undertaken to ensure that we—unlike the previous government—open a hospital for sick kids and their parents?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question and her ongoing interest in this project. This project will provide world-class health care for the sick kids of Western Australia. There can be no more important task for a state government than looking after the most vulnerable of our citizens. The McGowan government took control of this project and is bringing it home. If it was not for our positive intervention in this project back in April 2017, we would not have been able to get down to the work to identify the source of the lead contamination in the water and get on with the task of fixing the problem. Had we not taken practical completion and had we not had the courage and the leadership of the Premier in demanding that we take action, we would still be stuffing around like the previous mob were and would simply not be opening this hospital the way we are. I am very pleased to say that this hospital is on schedule and on time for opening in May this year. A Western Australian company, Australian Valve Group, has been chosen to supply the parts required to remedy the excess lead in the potable water. AVG delivered all the required thermostatic mixing valves ahead of schedule.

Dr M.D. Nahan: How many?

Mr R.H. COOK: It is around about 1 500.

The installation program is also currently ahead of schedule. We acted because the other side could not and would not. Several opposition members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: They hate this! They hate us pointing out day after day their failures and our success in delivering this world-class health facility for the sick kids of Western Australia. They hate it because every day we come in here and point out their incompetency. I am very pleased to say that of the water testing that has been done in the areas of the hospital where the TMV assembly box replacements and the isolation valve replacements have taken place, there has not been a single exceedance in any of the locations or in a single sample in any of those areas. These are the best results that we have ever had in this troubled project.

In conclusion, I would like to say that a lot of people have been calling out the Chief Health Officer and double-guessing his determinations, but it is the leadership and the guidance of the Chief Health Officer that have allowed us to identify the source of the lead contamination. He has brought scientific methodologies into play to make sure that the water in this hospital is safe for sick kids. With the guidance of the Chief Health Officer, who has been shown to be right, we will be opening this hospital on time this year. It will be a success and it will be a testament to the leadership of this government and a demonstration of the failure of that other mob.