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## Labor's Disgraceful Assault on the Public Hospital System

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said the *No Privatisation of Hospitals and Schools Bill* proposed by the Labor Party and currently before Parliament would, if enacted, have a catastrophic impact on our public hospital system, particularly the Fiona Stanley Hospital.

"This Bill will ban all new public hospitals from interacting with third parties and third party service providers. In other words, cancer patients will not be able to see a visiting oncologist and pregnant women will not be able to see a visiting obstetrician."

"If Labor's Bill is enacted, people will die unnecessarily; hospital queues will grow dramatically; the quality and range of services in our health system will decline seriously; and the cost of health services will skyrocket."

Dr Nahan said Labor's Bill will **prevent** the new \$1.7 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital, the main public hospital servicing the south metro region, from:

- **Receiving St John's Ambulance or the Royal Flying Doctor Service** emergency patients. These are the only two ambulance services in the State.
- **Silver Chain and other nurse providers** from supplying temporary staff or servicing out-patients;
- **Consulting medical specialists**, including surgeons, oncologists, cardiologists, psychiatrists and obstetricians from servicing public and private patients;
- **Financial donations from philanthropists**, such as Jack Bendat, from providing funding for new facilities;
- **Hiring private architects**, accountants, computer specialists, security services, landscape, and other specialist contractors.

"Contrary to the claims of the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union and the Labor Party, the Liberal/National Government is NOT privatising any hospital," said Dr Nahan.

"Privatisation is the selling off of a community-owned asset. That is not happening. Indeed, the Government is undertaking the largest investment in public hospitals in Western Australian history."

"We inherited Labor's public hospital system and a development plan for the Fiona Stanley Hospital and both are dependent on the pragmatic and continuing use of third party service providers."

"With this hypocritical Bill, Labor is attempting to change the operation of our public hospital system. I am appalled that it is doing this at the behest of the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union. Its actions are to the detriment of the people of Western Australia and my electorate of Riverton."

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