

INDIGENOUS INCARCERATION RATES

905. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. There has been a 45 per cent increase under the Premier's watch. Why has the government not done anything to reverse the trend that has seen the Aboriginal prison population rise at five times the rate of population growth in Western Australia since the Premier made that pledge?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Members will see legislative change, they will see change in policing practices and they will see changes in remote communities. All of those changes are being put in place and I certainly hope that they will succeed. This is a comprehensive approach. All that the Labor Party can do is make so-called one-liners. For the first time there is a serious effort across government—in the Department of the Attorney General, policing, community services and remote communities and through legislative change—to try to reverse that trend and reduce the number.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, you can see the level of disinterest in reality on that side; they are yelling and sledging and carrying on as they do. When I offered the member a briefing, he did not even show any interest in it. Would the member for Warnbro like a briefing?

Mr P. Papalia: I know more about it than you do.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: He may well do, but he has done nothing about it. This government is doing something.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time. Member for Forrestfield, I call you for the first time.

Mr N.W. Morton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield, I call you for the second time.