

MEMBER FOR DARLING RANGE — SERVICE MEDALS

687. Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS to the Minister for Defence Issues:

On 26 November 2009, *Hansard* shows that the minister called for the then member for Jandakot to be fined or jailed for breaching a uniform standard by wearing on his lounge suit a submariners badge that he had earned. Given that the current member for Darling Range has admitted to wearing a commonwealth medal for overseas operational service to which he was not entitled and was not awarded, what penalties does the minister think should apply in this case?

Point of Order

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am sure the minister might want to answer the question, but I do point out that it is not in his portfolio area. It might be a matter for the Minister for Veterans Issues, but not the Minister for Defence Issues.

The SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Mr Speaker, I am happy to answer. That is confirmation that sarcasm does not work for *Hansard*. It was clearly a joke. Yes, the former member for Jandakot made a fool of himself regularly by wearing dolphins on his suit, which is not appropriate and not in accordance with defence instructions. Nevertheless, I was joking and the member for Hillarys knows that I was joking. It is ridiculous of the member to raise this matter in this context and it is pretty insensitive, noting that the Premier already advised him several times of the health issues related to the member in question. The more the member does this, the more it shows how little his capacity to put himself in someone else's position.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Members of the opposition say more about themselves than they do about the member. I would advise members opposite to take the advice of the Premier on this matter, listen to what he said regarding the member's health, and think back on how they used to respond, regularly, whenever there were any issues raised around the member that might have slightly related to his health. It was something that members of the opposition got deeply affronted over, and we responded by not raising it. I have to say that the lack of response by the media in respect to this matter, compared with previous matters of a similar nature, puts its integrity in question.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Mr P. PAPALIA: I would say to ignore when I joke in *Hansard*. It was clearly a joke. It was not a serious question. I was posing it as a joke and I think that the member for Jandakot of the time knew that.