

GST DISTRIBUTION

428. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the opinion piece on page 42 of *The Sunday Times* of 20 August 2017 by journalist Joe Spagnolo, headed “Shorten’s turn to commit on GST”, wherein he argues that “Shorten must say something meaningful on GST” at the Labor Party conference this weekend, and wherein he claims —

Privately, Shorten is understood to have backed McGowan’s call for a GST floor of about 75¢ in the dollar.

- (1) Has Mr Shorten privately or otherwise given such an indication to the Premier?
- (2) When did he do so, and what precisely has he said on the issue and how he proposes to achieve it?
- (3) Did the Premier directly or indirectly pass this information on to Mr Spagnolo; and, if so, how and when?
- (4) If he did pass this information on to Mr Spagnolo, why has the Premier repeatedly refused to answer direct questions on this subject to the elected representatives of the Western Australian public in Parliament, but chosen to reveal them to a journalist?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

- (1)–(4) Given the honourable member’s preamble, this really is a question for Messrs Shorten and Spagnolo. I would be encouraged by such a position, but it is not for me to engage in media speculation.