

MINISTERIAL OFFICES — STAFFING

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

I refer to questions I asked on 21 June and 27 June regarding the employment of journalists in ministerial offices.

- (1) What steps has the Premier taken to obtain the information that I have sought to obtain in my questions?
- (2) Why, in the interests of accountability, transparency and honesty does he not reveal the information I have sought regarding the engagement of journalists in ministerial offices?
- (3) Even if he is concerned the information will be incomplete, why does he not supply what he can?
- (4) Is he afraid that by revealing information people will conclude that those journalists are being rewarded with jobs for having demonstrated, when engaged by media organisations, a bias in favour of the Labor Party in their reporting on the Barnett government or in the lead-up to the election?

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Leader of the House, before you answer that, there has been a tendency over the last couple of rounds of question time for members to seek opinions. I know that on each occasion that has been responded to appropriately, but I think that last part of the question might be veering towards that. Perhaps people might like to think about how they structure their questions.

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(3) I have previously directed the honourable member to the ministerial resourcing report. Individuals' previous employment, especially in the case of former journalists, is a matter of public record.
- (4) The premise of the question is ridiculous and fails to recognise the deep and many failings of the previous Barnett Liberal–National government.