

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — PRISON OFFICERS LEGISLATION

293. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer the Minister for Corrective Services to legislation he introduced last month which will result in prison officers being subjected to a \$4 000 fine or penalty of 12 months' imprisonment, or both, in the event they refuse to answer questions that might incriminate them in relation to misconduct.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that members of Parliament will be held to the same standards that he is trying to impose on prison officers?
- (2) If not, will he explain the difference between a prison officer and a member of Parliament in such circumstances?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) This side of the house, the government, supports a certain standard being applied to prison officers for a reason.

Mr P. Papalia: But not to drunk-driving members of Parliament!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Just shush and let me answer! There is a big difference between prison officers and police officers, whom it also applies to—it is modelled on that —

Mr P. Papalia: And youth custodial officers.

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

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I mentioned this many, many times when we went through consideration in detail of the Custodial Legislation (Officers Discipline) Amendment Bill 2013. It is very simple: prison officers and youth custodial officers, like police officers, have certain powers that no-one else in the community in Western Australia has—that is, deprivation of liberty and use of force. When people are empowered with those particular powers over other people, I expect them to be accountable to a certain standard, and I expect them to —

Mr M. McGowan: The transport minister has no power? Seriously!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I do not know the last time that a member of Parliament had the ability to use force or detain people. I did not know that we could do that, but maybe I am mistaken.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am going to warn every member that if they continue to shout out, they will be asked to leave the chamber. I do not want to have to do it; but if I have to do it, I will do it.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: A very simple answer, member for Warnbro: use of force, and deprivation of liberty.