

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION BILL 2015

Second Reading

Resumed from 20 May.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12 noon]: Mr Acting Speaker —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Members, can we keep the conversations down; if you want to have a conversation, take it outside. Let us restore a bit of order. Member for Perth, if you want to have a conversation, do it elsewhere, please.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Mr Acting Speaker, I need to indicate that I am not the lead speaker on this bill, but I am very pleased to be speaking on the Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2015.

This bill is about replacing a venerable organisation that we have all benefited from when it comes to health policy. It is about replacing Healthway, an organisation that has been engaged in health policy and health advocacy and has led the way with innovative campaigns to get the healthy living message out to the community. I can think of many advertising campaigns that have come from Healthway. Healthway conducts some of these campaigns in partnership with other organisations, and that sort of leveraging is quite legitimate. Healthway is most famous for its Quit Smoking campaign. It also promotes the tremendous Live Lighter campaign, which has great resonance to people in my electorate. It also promotes advertisements about the grabbable gut. That is a very realistic campaign that enables people to see that if they can grab the fat around their midriff, they have some sort of health problem. The issue of healthy living is something that we in this place should take very seriously. Healthway has been leading the way in supporting various brands that promote healthy living. However, it is not a brand in itself. It is supporting various campaigns and advertising programs. I have to say that I pride myself on being reasonably resistant to the television advertising about junk food and alcohol. However, the reality is that many people in our society live on a diet of junk food and alcohol, and junk television. They are being saturated with the messages from the corporate world about the need to consume more junk food-type products, such as highly sugared carbonated drinks.

Therefore, thank goodness we had the institution of Healthway—in fact, we have this institution, because it has not been done away with yet, although I gather the board has been done away with. However, the intention of this legislation is to put in place a body that will be so vastly inferior to what Healthway was giving us that it is an absolute travesty. The work of Healthway was to get the message through on things like the two-and-five program and the vegetable-protein mix program. It also promotes the “Alcohol Think Again” campaign. That campaign is very important. It is critical that we look at how much alcohol is consumed in our society.

The issue with Healthway seems to have come about because there was some public interest in corporate sponsorships and corporate hospitality and the handing out of tickets, and there was a suggestion that there was some sort of scandal in Healthway. It plays to the idea of people having their snouts in the trough. We have heard a lot about that in recent times with political leaders as well. It seems that that issue resonates with the general public, and many people in the media are seduced by these sorts of stories and find them titillating and interesting. The real story behind the demise of Healthway is much more serious—much more sinister, in fact. The fact is that the demise of Healthway has nothing to do with some mismanagement around corporate hospitality. It has everything to do with the government of the day pandering to the influence of some very big corporate interests involved in the junk food industry—big junk food and big alcohol. That is where the push for the demise of Healthway has come from.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Can you produce any evidence of all of that?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Yes, I can, Premier.

Mr C.J. Barnett: That would be interesting, because what you are implying is basically a corruption of the process, which I will take very seriously.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I am glad the Premier is engaged in this discussion, because it relates very heavily to his office and, indeed, to the Office of the Public Sector Commission as well.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You need to be very careful.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The Premier asked for some evidence.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Yes.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I will turn straightaway to a letter that I received through freedom of information. The letter is addressed to the Premier and it is from Carlton and United Breweries. This letter was sent to the Premier on 21 October 2014. That date is important, because it is long before any of the discussion about the hospitality tickets and the issues around the CEO’s mismanagement of that was in the public domain. On 21 October, Carlton and United Breweries wrote to the Premier in the following terms. I will quote the letter. I am happy to table it, but it is with the Premier—it is in his office and I FOI-ed it from his office. The letter states —

We note the recent comments attributed to yourself in the media that you will review the current structure of Healthway and that the organisation in the future may function similarly to Lotterywest ...

We support the move to consider how Healthway functions, as well as considering its core purpose and objectives to ensure they continue to remain relevant to promoting good health in Western Australia.

The letter goes on to indicate Carlton and United Breweries' dissatisfaction with the engagement of Healthway in policy development. The letter goes on to say that Carlton and United Breweries wants Healthway to be just a grants-type body, a bit like Lotterywest, and to just run small programs and hand out grants. So, what do we have in this bill? We have exactly that. What Carlton and United Breweries requested of the Premier in October is exactly what we have in this bill.

Mr C.J. Barnett: So, what do you conclude from that? They put a point of view. So what?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Does the Premier deny that there is any connection with his decision to axe Healthway and replace it with this grants body, the Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation? This sort of lobbying is just one example; I will get onto other examples. Big alcohol and big junk food have been lobbying the Premier and asking him for a long time to get rid of Healthway. They want the Premier to switch it to a grants program. I will take your interjection, minister.

Dr K.D. Hames: I was working with the chair long before that day on changing the way it operates.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I am sure that the chair of Healthway at the time would have been resistant to any notion of changing its functions. Healthway has led the way with the sort of policy and advocacy work that is so essential. The Premier has given in; he has pandered to big alcohol and big junk food —

Mr C.J. Barnett: Provide any evidence of that.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I will get to more evidence.

Mr C.J. Barnett: There's no evidence at all.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I am just starting my speech, Premier, so do not worry. I will continue; I will get to more evidence.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Point of Order

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It would be thought that a person with the experience of the Premier would know that interjections are disorderly. I wonder whether he will be called to order.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): No; sit down. The member took the interjections.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Do not question my ruling.

Debate Resumed

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The evidence is clearly there that Healthway meeting its demise was brought about by the lobbying of big alcohol companies and big junk food companies. That is very clear. I will go into this evidence I have from Carlton and United Breweries, because the government has done exactly what was asked for by CUB. Carlton and United Breweries' letter goes on to detail four things it wants: it wants direct ministerial accountability, an independent board appointed directly by the minister, regular audit and review of activities and governance and—I will go into this a bit more detail—it wants the role limited to grants funding and educational campaigns. That request is backed up in the letter, which states —

The organisation should be directed to focus on running public educational campaigns to promote good health and providing grants to support those aims. The organisation should be specifically excluded from any role in policy development (unless specifically directed by the Minister), lobbying or advocacy on policy issues, as well as funding any other organisations to do so.

Carlton and United Breweries justify this. The letter states —

Promoting public health should not be equated with lobbying for policy change.

Let us think about that. Surely promoting public health is about lobbying for policy change. How can the health of Western Australians be improved when the status quo is so much weighted towards the sale of alcohol, the sale of fast food and the promotion of those things at all kinds of events? How can helping people to moderate their intake of those things be contemplated without engaging in some form of lobbying? It is impossible to do. The letter from Carlton and United Breweries goes on —

A concerning example of Healthway undertaking policy advocacy was choosing to run a campaign ‘Alcohol and sport don’t mix’

That “Alcohol and sport don’t mix” campaign was run at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground in December 2013. I understand that, to its credit, the Western Australian Cricket Association embraced that campaign and accepted it had a serious problem. It was even at the point of wanting to erect nets around the outer boundaries so unruly drunken spectators could not run onto the playing area. Then the WACA thought about it and decided it would be better from a public health perspective, and for its reputation and that of its game, to have this “Alcohol and sport don’t mix” initiative. The WACA wanted to get away from drunken behaviour leading to people invading the ground and running into players at times and causing them injury—there have been famous incidents of that in the past. It wanted to move on and there was an opportunity. To his credit, Justin Langer is right behind the initiative of the “Alcohol and sport don’t mix” campaign. Carlton and United Breweries does not like that campaign at all. It wants to be able to have lots of VB ads all around the cricket ground; it wants to be able to promote its alcohol products and encourage people to drink more while they are at the cricket. Of course, we then get the unruly behaviour and the impacts on people’s health as a result of an overconsumption of alcohol. That is where Carlton and United Breweries want us to be headed, but instead the WACA responded sensibly and said there should be an “Alcohol and sport don’t mix” campaign. The letter goes on —

This campaign was intended to change public opinion around the acceptability of alcohol companies sponsoring sport, rather than encourage patrons to consume alcohol in moderation. Healthway most recent annual report refers to this move and said “*the incident generated strong public debate across Australia and challenged the acceptance of alcohol and sport being inextricably connected*”.

It is pretty clear that Healthway was in the sights of Carlton and United Breweries and it put it in this letter signed by Katheryn Hodges, the government relations manager at CUB. CUB put it in its letter to the Premier and what do we find? Almost a year later we have a bill that does the bidding of CUB. There it is; there is a connection.

Dr K.D. Hames: Just because someone writes a letter does not mean that anybody took any notice.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The government has done exactly what CUB requested. What a failure. The government is in the hands of big alcohol and big junk food corporations. They request something of government and it has bent over backwards to do it. I think that is an absolute disgrace. That is where we have got to with our Western Australian democracy: we have a government that has been unduly influenced by big alcohol and big junk food corporations. The minister is a disgrace if he does not accept that there is that level of lobbying and influence. Less than 12 months after that letter was sent we get a bill in this place that does exactly what the letter requests. What a disgrace.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, if you could just direct your comments through the Chair.

Dr K.D. Hames interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, I am sure you will get a chance to talk on this. Member, if you can just direct your comments through the Chair, that way I can protect you.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

I turn a little further to issues relating to the Minister for Health. Some notes relating to a meeting held between Coca-Cola Amatil and the Minister for Health have come into my possession. This meeting was held on 16 August 2011. To his credit, the minister expressed concerns about young Indigenous children consuming Coca-Cola.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister and member for Armadale! Thank you.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The minister had concerns about the amount of Coca-Cola being consumed. I think the Deputy Premier had been travelling in the north of the state and he was able to see young Indigenous kids waking up in the morning and straightaway reaching for a bottle of Coca-Cola. The meeting was led by Alec Wagstaff, who is director of corporate affairs at Coca-Cola Amatil and is based in Sydney. He came to make representations or to defend, I think, the position of Coca-Cola Amatil.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: He talked about how it would be wrong to have bans on availability or promotion. Mr Wagstaff talked about development of strong low-sugar brands. I have no doubt the Deputy Premier will want to answer this point, but my understanding is that eventually through the course of the meeting the Deputy Premier got to the point of saying that he thought Healthway should be promoting Coca-Cola Zero.

I understand that Coca-Cola Zero does not have sugar in it; it must have saccharine or things like that. The Deputy Premier was keen to have Healthway promote a Coca-Cola product called Coke Zero. I cannot see the health benefits of that, and I do not think Healthway could see them either, so Healthway refused the minister's request to promote Coca-Cola Zero.

Dr K.D. Hames: No, what happened is I said instead of refusing to have anything to do with them, we have such a huge problem in Aboriginal communities that they should work with them to try to promote in Aboriginal communities the use of Coca-Cola Zero as an alternative to full-strength Coke. That is what I asked them to do. I still strongly believe that that is the appropriate course of action.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I think, understandably, Healthway decided that it would not promote Coca-Cola —

Dr K.D. Hames: I do not know that they formally considered it. I think it was just part of the discussions.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I can understand why Healthway would refuse such a thing. Here we go with another example —

Dr K.D. Hames: Why wouldn't they, because they produce water as well?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The minister is right. Mr Wagstaff and his crew made some false claim to the minister that they were being prevented from promoting the Mount Franklin water brand, but actually their concern on that matter was allayed—they were told that that was not the case at all. They claimed that as Mount Franklin is a brand of Coca-Cola Amatil, they were being prevented from marketing it because it all comes under the one brand. It was an absolutely false claim. But let us see what Mr Wagstaff had to say as well. He outlined his concerns regarding Healthway's approach to sponsorship. He was outraged by the use of taxpayer funds to distort the sponsorship market. He said that Healthway's policies will reduce the viability of sporting organisations and their capacity to run junior participation programs. He also said that he appreciated the commercial reality of a major sponsor requiring product exclusivity, but that a government agency behaving in this way amounted to social engineering. According to a chief in the Coca-Cola Amatil corporation, if a government entity promotes a good public health message, it is engaged in social engineering. Can members imagine that—when we need so much to promote good public health messages? Those messages are absolutely vital. In my electorate, the kids who are unfortunately overweight are getting absolutely bombarded with messages, and we need some counterbalance, some decent public health message, and that was coming from Healthway. The Minister for Health wants to use this legislation to create an organisation that will be totally gutted and not able to provide that public health advocacy. That is where the minister wants to go with this. The minister's bill gets rid of an organisation that could provide a strong public health message and strong public health advocacy, and the minister has pandered to the social engineering claims of a representative from Coca-Cola Amatil. That is absolutely disgraceful.

The Premier asked me for evidence of my claim that the real issue with Healthway has nothing to do with hospitality and the tickets—that is a sideshow compared with what has really gone on here. This government is killing off Healthway because it is pandering to Coca-Cola Amatil, Carlton and United Breweries and big junk food and big alcohol corporations. This government is doing what they want. This bill provides exactly what they have asked the government to deliver. I know that more evidence will come through on this matter. The Minister for Health's very title strikes me as tragically ironic. This Minister for Health does not support an organisation such as Healthway that was so perfectly set up to promote the public health message. It is an absolute disgrace.

I now turn to some of the issues around the attacks made on the former chair of Healthway, Dr Capolingua. I noticed the apology that *The West Australian* published on Friday, 7 August. I do not know that I would describe it as an unreserved apology. I know that a number of tweets were made by a journalist from *The West Australian*, and I looked for them but they have been removed—but no mention is made of those in this apology either. Clearly, Dr Capolingua was doing her best to resolve that issue—it was an issue—about the tickets to corporate boxes and the like. There was an issue and she was onto it. She had already referred it to the Public Sector Commissioner before the government did—ages ago. I have some notes here on when such a referral might have been made. Professor Rob Donovan has been involved in this matter and has pointed out that the end result Public Sector Commission report on the whole matter was highly deficient. That is something that needs to be inquired into as well. I will get to where I think this should all go in a moment.

I want to point out the chronology of events. Early in 2014—in fact, further back than that—the chairwoman of Healthway was talking about the problem with hospitality and some of the corporate box tickets. About \$20 million was involved; it is not good. But it was onto it. Healthway knew there was a problem and it was dealing with it. All media attention was focused on that issue while the big issue was this undue influence from the corporate sector. That is the real disgrace here. I have to say that it is a very sad reflection on our media that they were caught napping on this one. Their gaze was distracted by the issue with hospitality and tickets to

various events. The media focused on that and missed this real issue of why Healthway was being attacked and why people were seeking to kill off Healthway. When we look at the chronology of events, we can see that the chairwoman, Rosanna Capolingua, was very concerned about people going off to different events. Eventually, referrals were made to the Public Sector Commission. In June 2014, there was even a meeting with the Public Sector Commissioner, Mal Wauchope, and a request was made for assistance and some other considerations were made. But we were missing at this time the undue influence that was going on. At the same time, we had Coca-Cola and Carlton and United Breweries meeting with the health minister and insisting on different approaches to products such as Coca-Cola Zero being promoted by Healthway, and Carlton and United Breweries asking the Premier to change the way in which Healthway operates. Those sorts of things were going on at the same time, and they were missed by those of us involved in public scrutiny. They have been missed, up until now. Now the time has come, and that is where I want to finish this contribution.

We desperately need one of our Legislative Assembly committees to use the powers of parliamentary privilege to enable people like the former chairwoman of Healthway to give evidence so that we can find out what was really going on. I have just provided a very brief overview of events, but we know that there is a lot more to this. Until that inquiry has been had, we should not progress this bill through this place. It is an outrage that we are looking to replace Healthway with a body that will just be a glorified Lotterywest that hands out grants and provides opportunities for ministers to take those big cheques along to support health promotion activities of a fairly minor nature when we could be looking to reinforce and reinvigorate that great work that Healthway has been doing. It could be a great public health advocate in our community running those brilliant campaigns and making sure that we have places like the WACA fully supported when it makes that decision to talk about how alcohol and sport do not mix. That should be supported, but instead this government is doing everything it can to dismantle that organisation. Why? It is because Carlton and United Breweries, Coca-Cola Amatil and others say that they do not like it, and they do not like good public health messages. They do not want to see Healthway occupying that space with public health advocates and champions. What a disgrace! That is why this minister is insisting on the demise of Healthway and substituting it with this very weak body that will not be able to act as a public health advocate. The evidence is there. The Premier stepped out of the chamber while I was going through the evidence from Coca-Cola Amatil. I am sure there is more evidence to come on this, but the fact remains that undue influence was brought to bear and that is why, within 12 months of letters being received by the Premier, the Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2015 is before this place putting an alternative —

Mr C.J. Barnett: What is your accusation against me; what are you saying?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I have gone through that, I think, Premier! I said that the Premier received a letter in October 2014 requesting the demise of Healthway and that it be replaced with something vastly inferior in terms of public health advocacy. What do we have? In August 2015, there is a bill before us that will provide the community with that vastly inferior public health advocate. That, Premier, is more than a coincidence. I have provided evidence about the meetings that the Minister for Health had with Coca-Cola Amatil and the crazy notion that something such as Coca-Cola Zero should be promoted by Healthway.

Dr K.D. Hames: I didn't ask them to promote it.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The Minister for Health is saying that he did not ask Healthway to promote that product.

Dr K.D. Hames: That is right; that is what I am saying.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: This bill is a disgrace. We should have a public health advocate that is as strong as Healthway was, with the ability to be innovative, and nothing less.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [12.31 pm]: I make the point that I am not the lead speaker for the Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2015. In considering this legislation, it is worth thinking about the history of the Liberal Party's disdain for Healthway going back to 1999 when it tried to cap the amount of money that was to be spent by Healthway on health promotion. That issue was met with the campaign by Geoff Gallop as the then Leader of the Opposition to ensure that Healthway funding continued to be based on its own income rather than simply as an allocation from a minister to the organisation, to protect its interests as an independent body. I am not going to allege that the government's disdain for an independent health promotion body has anything to do with the \$45 000 donated by Philip Morris Ltd to the Liberal Party on 19 July 2013. I am not going to say that that donation led to a policy outcome in Western Australia. I am sure that the Liberal Party can take \$45 000 from Philip Morris Ltd and not change its policies, because I bet that the Liberal Party's policies and those of Philip Morris are very coincidental. The fact is that the Labor Party has, for coming up to nearly 20 years, refused to accept donations from cigarette companies, whereas the Liberal Party continues to do so; that is a shame on the Liberal Party. It is a shame that it continues to take political donations from the cigarette companies that get their profits from people who are injuring themselves with every puff they

take. That is what is happening here. I am not alleging that the Premier's decision to abolish an independent organisation and make it subject to ministerial control —

Mr C.J. Barnett: It hasn't and will not be abolished. That's just untrue.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It's not being abolished at all.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The government is abolishing an independent —

Mr C.J. Barnett: This legislation re-establishes it; it doesn't abolish it.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Yes, it does. I am sorry, but the Premier should read the legislation before he gets involved in the debate. I know he chairs cabinet meetings, but it is probably worth his while reading some of the cabinet submissions. That way he will know what he is talking about when he gets here rather than flapping his gums against the standing orders and causing embarrassment to everybody in Western Australia that a Premier could come into this place with such little information about his government's legislation. Why does he not just close his mouth? That would be helpful to everybody in Western Australia. I understand that the backbench is too scared of the Premier and that even though he has become the most unpopular Premier in the state's history, they still will not move against him. Government members, by the time we get to this time next year it will be too late to roll the Premier. They have only between now and March. After March they are stuck with him.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Member, we are talking about the health promotion bill; not your personal opinion of the Premier.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Excellent; that is exactly what I am doing. If members want a Premier who reads legislation such as the bill we are being told to deal with today, which abolishes an independent organisation that is there to promote health in Western Australia, they have only until March to deal with that matter.

As I say, the \$45 000 donation from Philip Morris is more about the fact that the Liberal Party's policy is coincidental with that of the cigarette lobby. It was not given because Philip Morris is buying an outcome; it is rewarding an outcome, to put it that way. It is interesting that the government has used the excuse of the scandal of the use of tickets to abolish an independent organisation and to bring the organisation under ministerial control, which, as I said, the Liberal Party tried to do back in the 1990s. But it is not abolishing Tourism Western Australia, which received more tickets than Healthway—6 200 event tickets, according to an article in *The Sunday Times* on 17 May 2015. That article is entitled "Free For All" and has the subheading "Exclusive government tickets bonanza revealed". I point out that since 2013, Lotterywest, which we are being told is what the government wants to replicate, paid for 963 tickets to events, including the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the West Australian Ballet's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and the West Australian Opera's *The Barber of Seville*. The newspaper article states —

Of these, 232 were used by Lotterywest staff, the board and their partners.

It also states —

Lotterywest staff also received 187 double passes for a Perth International Arts Festival film festival as part of a sponsorship deal.

Again, that organisation is not being dealt with in the way that we are dealing with Healthway. The same article states —

The Sunday Times later revealed two VenuesWest board members misused Katy Perry concert tickets by giving them away.

...

Tourism WA chief executive Stephanie Buckland said 650 of the gold and silver 2015 Hopman Cup tickets were allocated among 32 staff for "hosting stakeholders", with the rest given to stakeholders.

Again, that organisation is not being disciplined or being abolished. What is it about Healthway that angered the government? We know what it was. It was because Healthway followed its act and promoted health. We saw the controversy when Healthway did a deal with the WACA to buy out alcohol sponsorship at the WACA. I was driving past it this morning and saw a sign that reads "Alcohol and sport don't mix". I looked up and can see that the Premier has gone.

Dr A.D. Buti: It is an improvement in the chair!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Absolutely! I see that the Liberal Party is moving on; somebody new is checking out the Premier's seat! I wish the member for Kingsley well; she does better than the incumbent in that chair! I congratulate her on her foresight to get herself ready to take over the role because clearly she has until

March next year to sort this out. After that, it will be too late. It will be too late for the Liberal Party to do anything about getting rid of the most unpopular Premier in the state's history.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Back to the bill, member.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am on the bill. Thank you very much.

Members will remember, I am sure, the controversy when Cricket Australia wanted to change the slogan to "Under 18—No alcohol, the safest choice". There were a number of articles in the newspaper and elsewhere. On 23 October 2013, the member for Albany asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation —

- (1) Does the minister support the Healthway advertisement in its choice of slogan?
- (2) Does the minister support Cricket Australia's action in asking for the advertising slogan to be changed?
- (3) Did the Minister for Sport and Recreation go in to bat hard enough for the WA Cricket Association and the Healthway advertisement?

Think about this: a government agency has chosen words to use in an advert and the organisation it is sponsoring, in this case WACA, agreed to that advert and then a third party was asking for a change to the advertising message. The government agency is being asked to back down for an outside body. The minister went on at quite some length, and I will quote just a bit of it. He said —

In regard to Cricket Australia, I have supported WA Cricket Association very well over the years and continue to do so. The WA Cricket Association brought what it had done to me. I was not involved in it; it can make its decisions. The WACA has come to a very good arrangement with Healthway.

He then did not say whether he supported or opposed the continuation of what WACA was doing. The member for Albany asked the supplementary question, "Who does the minister support: Cricket Australia or Healthway?" The Minister for Sport and Recreation replied —

I support cricket and I support sport strongly. Healthway has a role to play. The Western Australian Cricket Association has come to a good arrangement with Healthway. I think that Healthway and the sports it deals with need to come to those balanced arrangements in which there can be wins both ways.

He never actually said where he stood on this issue. If this comes up again, now it will not be an independent organisation making its decisions based on its own needs, it will be the minister's decision about whether this happens or not.

Mr C.J. Barnett: No, it won't.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is exactly what the government's legislation states.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You have never been a minister; you have never had responsibility.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The one thing I have never done is never been corrupt either. Okay? We know what I have not done. I have not done those things. In life there are contrasts, and that is what I think the people of Western Australia —

Mr C.J. Barnett: Who is being corrupt?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is probably one of the reasons that the Premier is the most unpopular Premier in the state's history. As I say, the Liberal Party has until March next year to sort this out, because if it does not roll him before then, it will be too late. That is what will happen. If the Liberal Party does not roll the current Premier by March, it will be too late and the party will be stuck with him. He is the most unpopular Premier in the state's history.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I have warned you twice about this. I appreciate your concern for the Liberal Party's chances at the next election, I sincerely do, but please can we just concentrate on the bill.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Excellent; I will do that. I do not invite any interjections from the Premier, and if he does interject on me I will reply to those interjections and I will continue to reply to them.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Sorry, I cannot hear the Premier. What did the Premier say?

Mr C.J. Barnett: You are the champion of parliamentary standards!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Yes, that is right, I am. As we know, I am the only member ever to refer themselves to the privileges committee on the question of how honest I am and, as the Acting Speaker knows, the report said that I am an honest man. I am happy for that. I contrast that with other people in this chamber. Why do they not,

when these issues of honesty are raised, agree to have those referrals made to the privileges committee? As I say, Mr Acting Speaker, I get distracted by these disorderly interjections from the Premier and I note that nobody is calling him to order and that is a decision for others, and I am not making any comment or judgement on that.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is right. So let us just focus for the last seven minutes.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Let us listen to the member for Cannington who has the call for about the next seven minutes until 90-second statements.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: And then I will take an extension.

The ACTING SPEAKER: You will not get it now.

Mr J. Norberger interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am looking forward to the member for Joondalup having a long break.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Enough, please.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is quite amusing that the member interjects on me. I recently met with the youth Parliament members, and the youth Parliament member for Joondalup told me that he had met with the member for Joondalup, who informed the youth member that the member for Joondalup's job in the chamber is to be one of the headkickers for the Liberal Party. He specifically named me as one of the people who he expects to headkick! I thought the youth member was talking about the member for Churchlands. Then I clarified, "Oh, you mean the member for Joondalup. You've got to be joking, we cannot hear him, he is so far back in the chamber!" It is amusing when the member interjects in that way.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is enough! I gave you a bit of leeway because the member for Joondalup interjected. Again, just focus on the bill at hand for the next five minutes.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I look forward to being able to do that.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Albany, please.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: If I am not being distracted by these interjections, I will make sure that I do.

What has happened here is that the government has been caught out. The minister had a responsibility towards Healthway and its use of these tickets. I do not say that he should have known the details of every time Healthway took a ticket from a sponsorship to attend an event. What he had a responsibility to do was to supervise the policies involved with those tickets. That is why the Minister for Health failed in his duty and that is why the government has manufactured this position whereby it can come back and now, after all these years, it can finally do what the Liberal Party always wanted to do, which was to cripple Healthway. The Liberal Party never liked it or supported it. It is happy to pretend to support it, but it is never prepared to give Healthway its proper head and let it get on and promote health.

The minister had a responsibility that he failed in. His responsibility was not to supervise every single ticket received; his job was to supervise the policies involved. We know from the answers that the minister was aware of policies in this regard. His failure to do his job in supervising the policy is a failure of government. Once upon a time, the Westminster system stated that if a member failed in their responsibilities as a minister, they should resign. I appreciate that that hard and fast process has gone out the window. Once upon a time, the Westminster principles were even narrower than that. A failing in the minister's agency was something the minister took responsibility for. Since the late 1970s, early 1980s, that became what the minister knew about. That is the problem for the minister; he knew about the procedures that Healthway was using in managing its sponsorships, or he should have, or it is appropriate to hold him to account for the fact that he should have been across those. They were not issues of detail; they were issues of policy. The minister had a responsibility to do those things, and he failed. But when the failures came to light, the minister did not stand up and take his responsibilities in that regard. He was happy to chase down all those independent members of Healthway, and remember that the reason they are independent is that some of them were appointed to Healthway by outside organisations. That all goes in this new model. There is no external control; it becomes just another government department. It will be just as independent as Lotterywest. I make the point about Lotterywest—I have made it in his place previously—that most of its revenue is from the eastern suburbs.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Most of Lotterywest's revenue is from electorates such as mine and yours, Acting Speaker, in the eastern suburbs. That is not where most of its resources are spent. It does not return to the people of greatest need; there is no transparency in the way that money is allocated. Then there was that \$1 million that was wasted during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. What a disgrace. It gave \$1 million to the people's convention in Fremantle during CHOGM. How in the heck could that get through? It was because the government needed the money.

Mr C.J. Barnett: That is absolutely untrue, and why wouldn't Lotterywest support a seminar on the civil society?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is an interesting issue. Why did the government not support the seminar on civil society? Why did one cent of government money not go into the people's convention? Not one cent. It was paid for by Lotterywest, what a disgrace! It is like that stupid barbecue, the Queen's barbecue, whereby eight times more money was spent on the barbecue than was raised in donations. It was said to have been paid for by Coles, when it was actually paid for by the taxpayer. It cost more than it raised—talk about effective charity work. That is the sort of mess we get when we allow a government like this to manage things.

Mr C.J. Barnett: We won't bother sending you an invitation.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Here the Premier goes again. The most unpopular Premier in the state's history does not get it.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

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