

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON REMOTE HOUSING

490. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing that will expire on Saturday and the commonwealth government's failure to commit to long-term funding for remote housing in Western Australia. Can the minister outline to the house why it is so important that the commonwealth does not walk away from supporting the families who live in these communities?

Mr P.C. TINLEY replied:

Before I start, on behalf of the member for Joondalup, I would like to acknowledge in the public gallery today representatives from the Ocean Ridge Cricket Club.

I thank the member for the question and for his time yesterday in Port Hedland as we delivered a significant McGowan government promise to provide transitional housing for Aboriginal people in Port Hedland with the refurbishment of 40 homes, 30 of which had been taken up from the failed Hedland 125 project, I might add, and 10 from surplus Government Regional Officers' Housing.

Mr D.T. Redman: So they have been useful, have they?

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Yes, they have finally been found to be useful. The direction from the agency is that when a person goes to Port Hedland to make sure they stay in Osprey Village because it needs the uplift in its room occupancy rate, mate! The Hedland 125 project—another failed Liberal–National Party policy—has finally been tidied up by the Labor government. It took the adults in the room to actually get it sorted out.

I thank the member for the question that I am coming back to, which is about the closing arrangements with the commonwealth—the clock is approaching midnight, I suppose, on Saturday—that will see the end of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. One of the most basic needs of the most vulnerable people in remote and regional Western Australia is shelter, but more than that, housing provides —

... shelter, privacy, safety and security, supports health and education, and has a significant impact on workforce participation.

Nobody in this room would argue with those words, but they came from Nigel Scullion, the Leader of the Country Liberals in the Northern Territory. They were his words in his 2017 report titled, "Remote Housing Review", which identified the requirement for Western Australia to produce over the next 10 years 1 300 homes in order to keep pace with population and to attend to the overcrowding issues that are sometimes found in remote communities. It seems that on Saturday, the federal government will walk away from 50 years of involvement in remote and Indigenous communities. Many of those communities are a result of the history of dispossession of Indigenous people, first nation Western Australians. Twenty years before the Wave Hill walk-off, we had in the Pilbara —

Mr V.A. Catania: Did you strike a \$61 million deal with the minister?

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I beg your pardon.

Mr V.A. Catania: Did you strike a deal with the minister?

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Member for North West Central, I cannot believe that you actually put your head above the parapet.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I cannot believe you even put your head above the parapet, member for North West Central.

Mr V.A. Catania: It is \$61 million. It is in writing.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: You have been in this place since 2005 and the first time you mentioned remote communities was yesterday—since 2005!

Mr V.A. Catania: That is not true at all.

The SPEAKER: The minister has the call.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: The member for North West Central needs to investigate *Hansard*. He knows where it is. He knows how to search it. If he does not, I can provide him with somebody who might be able to give him a bit of instruction.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth, you are at the back of the house and I call you to order for the first time.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: For the benefit of members and the member for North West Central, I would like to introduce him to his own electorate. That electorate has 22 remote communities. Since 2005, in the member's entire time in this place, he decided that yesterday —

Mr V.A. Catania: It has 23.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Who knows? Somebody knows how to research! It has four town-based reserves.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: You would not know. I imagine from Mount Claremont, mate, all of your electorate is remote! You really have some gall to come in here and —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I do not like people telling everyone where members live in their electorates.

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills, I call you to order for the first time. Members of Parliament are obviously in high-profile positions. We do not like telling people where other people live. You can get up in the chamber and say where you live, but I find it a bit hard when you mention where other people live.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take your guidance seriously.

I want to highlight the hypocrisy. I said in this place several weeks ago that the next time the member for North West Central gets up and does something for remote communities, it will be the first time.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I want to know why —

The SPEAKER: Minister! Member for Warren–Blackwood, you know the rules. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Why would the National Party put out press releases and make spurious claims about the validity and genuineness of the McGowan Labor government approaching this issue when it is the very first time it has raised it? Why does the member for North West Central not table the letter that he has written to the Prime Minister seeking support from the government? Has he done that? No. Has the Liberal Party put pen to paper beyond the press release and beyond a question without notice to see whether it can do any good for the people of Western Australia? We are talking about some of the most vulnerable people in Western Australia who need and deserve our assistance. As a single voice from Western Australia, the member for North West Central should do some of the heavy lifting himself. He is a complete and utter disgrace. He had all these conversions on the road to Damascus. Well, Damascus ain't in your electorate, member for North West Central! Somehow he can support Moora college several hundred kilometres from his own electorate office. Seriously, members opposite ought to take a hard look. The behaviour of members opposite is fundamentally dishonest. The behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition is disingenuous and dishonourable. If members opposite had any guts, they would pool the intellectual horsepower they have between them, which would not pull the skin off a custard, and try to put pen to paper and make a difference for the people of Western Australia.

Withdrawal of Remark

Dr D.J. HONEY: I take deep objection to the minister's —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the House, I call you. I was on my feet.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Women's Interests to order for the first time.

Mr P. Papalia: It was not her.

The SPEAKER: Who was it?

Mr P. Papalia: It was the member for Girrawheen.

The SPEAKER: It was the member for Girrawheen. I apologise to the minister. The member for Girrawheen is such a quiet little thing; I cannot generally hear her. I will take the point of order in silence, please.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I take deep objection to the member opposite referring to my colleagues and me as dishonest and —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Sport and Recreation, it is a point of order. I will hear it in silence.

Dr D.J. HONEY: It is imputation and I believe he should be asked to withdraw.

The SPEAKER: What part were you referring to?

Dr D.J. HONEY: He referred to me and the other members on this side of the house as dishonest. He said that exact word.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: He was talking in general terms, so I do not think that you can be personally offended. If you are, I am sure the minister is getting to the end of a very long answer. Is that the finish?

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I am done. All over.