

PRISON FELLOWSHIP WESTERN AUSTRALIA — DAVID VOLMER

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

I refer to the former Prison Fellowship executive director, David Volmer, whom the minister met on two occasions and whom his office corresponded with three times between May 2013 and May 2015.

- (1) Can the minister explain how Mr Volmer became CEO of Prison Fellowship and forced out the creator of the Sycamore Tree program so rapidly after his arrival in Perth?
- (2) Noting what has happened with the “gang of eight”, of which Mr Volmer is part, has the minister sought a report from his department of on how many occasions Mr Volmer visited any Western Australian corrective services facilities, and whether or not he has met paedophiles whilst he was in those facilities?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

- (1)–(2) I have absolutely no idea how he got his job. The member for Warnbro should direct the question to Prison Fellowship. There are hundreds and hundreds of not-for-profit organisations, some of them based on religious beliefs, some of them based on wanting to reform offenders, some of them based on wanting to get people off drugs—all kinds of different reasons—motivated by all of the best reasons. There are different organisations; some of them that have existed for decades. How did he get the job? The member will have to ask him. I can tell the member —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Did I ask Prison Fellowship how it gave him the job? Absolutely not. What a ridiculous question!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I do not want to hear any more. There has been a lot of shouting.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: What they are trying to do here, Mr Speaker, is spread their grubbiness and sleaze and innuendo, because as the Minister for Corrective Services, I accepted the request by a stakeholder, like I would for any other stakeholder that delivers services into prisons, and you are trying to spread your grubbiness —

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park!

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I did exactly what any other person, including any person on that side, would have done as a minister.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the first time. Are you finished, minister?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Absolutely not, Mr Speaker.

Any other person on that side would have done so, if they were doing their job as a minister. As I said, paedophiles do not come with signs; we have no idea. We had absolutely no idea and I can assure members that Prison Fellowship would not have given him that job if it had any idea either. So get out of the gutter and grow up!