

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — DRUG DETECTION UNIT

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

I ask a supplementary question. Does that rant mean that —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Corrective Services, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Albany, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Just a hint: the minister may want to ask whether Ken Cummings is in the internal investigations unit.

Does that rant mean that the drug detection unit is on zero staffing, which means that if someone goes on leave or is sick, they are not replaced?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I believe there are 10 beagles in the drug detection unit. Each one of them has someone who can look after them.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Do members opposite not think drugs in prisons is a serious issue?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the third time. Member for Willagee, I call you to order for the third time. Minister, through me, I want an answer to that question.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The government takes the issue of drugs getting into prisons exceptionally seriously—very seriously, gravely seriously and far more seriously than the other side ever will.

Point of Order

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The minister was asked about staffing levels in the prisons and he has talked about dogs. Will you allow him to ignore the standing orders by talking about dogs when he was asked about staffing levels?

The SPEAKER: The minister has answered the question.