

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — CHIEF OF STAFF — BULLYING ALLEGATIONS

72. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Health:

My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Mental Health —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Pardon?

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This is not a question about —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: My question to the Minister for Mental Health is not about processes or current investigations; it is a question about his integrity. Can the minister stand in this Parliament and in all honesty say that he has never witnessed Erik Locke bully or say disparaging comments about a female staffer's appearance?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I have been quite clear to Parliament that I will not be providing a running commentary on the issues that are currently before an official investigation by the department.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition! It is your own member's question.

Mr R.H. COOK: I repeat: I will not be providing a running commentary on these issues, which are currently being investigated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. There is a reason for that: these are serious complaints and allegations, and it is important that they are provided proper process and procedural fairness and that they get to the bottom of the matter. I will not be providing a running commentary, because it is quite inappropriate to do so.