

TOURISM WA — GWYN DOLPHIN

597. Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the removal of the CEO of Tourism WA, Mr Gwyn Dolphin, who, like the minister's brother, was dismissed by this government for no apparent reason. Can the minister explain why the government dismissed Mr Dolphin at a cost of \$373 000 after only 11 months as chief executive officer of Tourism WA, or a payout of almost \$34 000 for every month of service?

The SPEAKER: I will just make a comment there. The former Premier was very strong on not bringing families or issues with families into Parliament. I think that is something that you should think of before you ask a question. Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I am on my feet. I am making a decision. You have the opportunity in other areas to query my decision. All I am saying is that it has been a standard and the former Premier was very strong on not bringing families into this sort of situation.

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for the question. With respect to Mr Dolphin and his position, he was not dismissed. Tourism WA, like many other agencies, as committed to prior to the election by the government, was subject to machinery-of-government changes. We came to the election with the commitment to reduce the number of agencies from 41 to 25. In the end we achieved a significant reduction. The previous government had an outrageous number of agencies and departments. It made government unwieldy, incompetent and ineffective, and probably contributed significantly to the disastrous financial situation that we inherited. We committed to doing something about it and as a consequence, when we got into office there was a machinery-of-government process that resulted in a reduction across agencies with the objective of trying to reduce the number of senior executive service positions by 20 per cent. Mr Dolphin's position was one of those positions and the Tourism WA structure has now been included in the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. With respect to Mr Dolphin's payout, I am pretty sure that the conditions of his employment were arranged and organised by the previous government; we inherited that. His position, with respect to being paid out, would have been entirely as a consequence of his conditions of employment.