

LABOR PARTY — BULLYING ALLEGATIONS

**688. Mrs A.K. HAYDEN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:**

I have a supplementary question.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Transport, I call you to order for the first time. Can you ask your supplementary question, please.

**Mrs A.K. HAYDEN:** Will the Premier ask the Public Sector Commissioner to undertake an immediate investigation into these serious allegations of bullying and intimidation against staff?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I am aware of allegations of bullying. They were by Helen Morton. Members might recall Helen Morton, who was a member of the upper house. She made allegations of bullying against another member of Parliament, who was a female member of the upper house, who blocked her in the corridor. That is what Helen Morton had to say. The allegation made by Hon Helen Morton was that she blocked her in the corridor and threatened her.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Darling Range has asked about bullying; the Premier is talking about bullying.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs A.K. HAYDEN:** I would like the Premier to provide information.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down.

Several members interjected.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, have you finished?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** No, I am not finished. There is no substance to whatever scuttlebutt the member has indicated there.

**Mrs A.K. Hayden** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Darling Range, I call you to order.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I am aware, as I said, of allegations of bullying. I want to read out what Hon Helen Morton had to say. I think people in this house might want to answer a few questions about it.

*Point of Order*

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I have already ruled on the relevance of this.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Mr Speaker, under standing order 92, “Imputations and personal reflections” —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, there is a point of order. I will hear it in silence.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Standing order 92 states —

Imputations of improper motives and personal reflections on the Sovereign, the Governor, a judicial officer or members of the Assembly or the Council are disorderly other than by substantive motion.

If the Premier has an issue that he needs to raise about a member, it must be by way of substantive motion.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Premier, I have been advised that you have to be very careful about making allegations against members of the upper house.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think my allegation is not against a member of the upper house.

According to my notes, Hon Helen Morton said on ABC radio on 20 September 2018, “The worst bullying I experienced was by a woman.”

*Point of Order*

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** You shouldn’t throw stones!

**The SPEAKER:** I will throw you onto the called-to-order list, member for Armadale. Yes.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 28 August 2019]

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Mrs Alyssa Hayden; Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Zak Kirkup

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**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** The supplementary question from the member for Darling Range was about allegations of bullying of staff. I believe that the answer from the Premier must be relevant to that supplementary question.

**The SPEAKER:** It is relevant. If the member had not brought up bullying, the Premier could not have brought it up. Premier, finish this off, please.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** According to my notes, on ABC radio on 20 September 2018, Hon Helen Morton said —

“The worst bullying I experienced was by a woman. And I’m informed that this woman perpetrated bullying against male colleagues ...

The most serious bullying that I experienced in the Parliament was perpetrated by a woman, that person was obviously carrying out a mission or undertaking the business, of that preselection, being made safe for her.

In my case I’ve been blocked from walking down a passageway to get to my office and I was quite literally shirtfronted by this person, as I shifted from one way to the other, pass, the member deliberately would block me, making physical contact with me, in quite a threatening manner, I was literally disgusted and appalled that this was happening, by a member of parliament, in the parliament of western Australia, and in view of the public. It was just appalling to me that it could happen. I did ask for an apology, but that was not forthcoming, and the reason I was given was because fear of admission would lead to some sort of prosecution for assault.”

Member for Darling Range, that is what Hon Helen Morton had to say about one of her colleagues. It might be appropriate for the member for Darling Range to explain that matter to the house.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.