

LOCAL PROJECTS, LOCAL JOBS PROGRAM — SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

21. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's cash-for-votes scandal.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, the question will be heard in silence.

A government member: How's the surf club going?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The surf club is going very well, actually. They are performing hundreds of rescues on the beach. The former deputy Mayor of the City of Stirling supports the refurbishment.

The SPEAKER: Member, ask your question; otherwise, I will sit you down.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I refer to the Premier's cash-for-votes scandal. Why is he giving a short-term vote-buying cash splash to the scouts through the Local Projects, Local Jobs program across WA while ripping out long-term funding to the scouts by axing their access to KidSport?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I reiterate to members that in the lead-up to the election, we made a number of election commitments. Members of Parliament and candidates talked to the communities that they either represented or hoped to represent and came up with a range of commitments that the then opposition made. That is standard practice. I would have thought that was standard practice.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: If that is wrong, I look forward to the Liberal Party not making a single commitment at the next election. Will we have to have an application process that is public and that anyone can apply to to make an election commitment? Is that what the Liberal Party is saying it will do?

Dr M.D. Nahan: Yes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: You will do that? Okay; you will do that. Let us see.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: If the Leader of the Opposition is still there, we will come back to that bit of *Hansard*.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Any single commitment you make, you need to have that sort of process out there.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Let us wait and see.

We made a range of election commitments across the state and some of the wonderful commitments under this headline across the state were for issues such as domestic violence, for RSL clubs and to roll out the Ice Breakers program in the electorate of Bunbury to try to help people with methamphetamine addiction, which was copied from the Ice Breakers program in Albany. Members can go through a whole range of these initiatives that we are rolling out across Western Australia that are designed to address some of those areas that the former government paid no attention to. Members will find that these commitments apply across the state and members and communities are very happy with them.

I am a supporter of the scouts. The member for Scarborough seems to be complaining that we have made some commitments to the scouts. The KidSport program was designed by the former government for sport. That was the design that the former government put upon it. The former Minister for Sport and Recreation who came up with it, the departed Terry Waldron, made it about sport. Because the cost of the program was blowing out, we had to take it back to its original parameters, which were about helping disadvantaged kids participate in sport. The scouts and the guides receive a range of support from government in a number of other areas. The Department for Communities provides support through the youth division and Lotterywest provides support to the scouts. There is a range of other supporting initiatives to the scouts. I respect the scouts enormously; there is a scout troop, the guides and all the rest in my electorate, but KidSport, by its title, is about sport.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!