

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES — INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

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

I refer to the minister's claims on morning radio today that the internal investigations unit has been completely disbanded and replaced with a new unit with new personnel from outside.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the officer who referred to female officers in his emails as BMWs, or bitching moaning women, is still in the new investigations unit?
- (2) Is it also true that the vast majority of staff in the new unit are exactly the same people who were in the old investigations unit?
- (3) Is it not also true that the sole officer from the old investigations unit who has lost employment is the whistleblower who personally raised issues in the unit with the minister?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

- (1)–(3) They are suckers for punishment today! Let me put it to the member for Warnbro this way: we are getting on with reforming the Department of Corrective Services. I will stand in here every single day and remind the people of Western Australia that the member does not have the ticker to tackle issues within the Department of Corrective Services. He never had the ticker to stand up to the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union two weeks ago when he had the opportunity to put on the record that he also supports reform of the Department of Corrective Services.

Point of Order

Mr P. PAPALIA: Mr Speaker, I asked some very clear questions, none of which referred to some legislation; they all referred to the internal investigations unit. I asked a specific question about that individual who is on the public record as referring to women as BMWs in emails. Is he still in the unit?

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: There are over 2 000 prison officers in Western Australia. There are over 3 000 public servants. That is 5 000 personnel. News flash: I do not know where they all are. If the member had cared to put that question on notice, I would have found out for him. Significant reform is going on in the Department of Corrective Services. We will tackle the issues, whether he likes it or not.