

**ABORIGINAL PEOPLE — GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

*Statement*

**HON ROBIN SCOTT (Mining and Pastoral)** [9.53 pm]: During my three and a half years in this chamber, I have occasionally allowed myself to fantasise what it would be like to be part of the government. It would feel really good to know that I could actually do something to help people. I think about how many people I could help and how many people I could make happy, particularly Aboriginal people. Unfortunately, political correctness and a soft approach towards anything to do with Indigenous people is killing them. I cannot understand why the government is so frightened to make the right decisions to help our Indigenous people, who need help and many of them want help. They want to move up to speed in 2020 and get up to the twenty-first century. That is the main goal for many of them. The government should be moving into this area and making it plain that Indigenous people are going to get help whether or not they like it, because if we do not, nothing will change for the future generations. We need to be clear that Indigenous people have to toe the line; otherwise, their welfare money will be cut off. To continue their welfare money, they need to prove that they want to progress and advance their own lifestyle, and we need to help them to do this. But if the Indigenous people knock it back, they can go and look after themselves, and many of them would do that, particularly some of the older ones. They would just go out into the bush and shoot roos and live off the bush tucker, and they would survive because they have survived for the last 60 000 years, and because they are a sharing culture, everybody would help everyone else survive.

The ones who took up the offer of help to advance themselves would hopefully encourage the others by telling them that they need to get onto this program: “Look at me; I’ve got a job, I’ve got money in my pocket, I’m no longer on the booze and my kids are going to school!” Any government could do this. It is so simple, yet it has got me stuffed why the government does not do it. Is the government so frightened of upsetting the do-gooders and the civil liberties people? I do not think that is the case; I think the government is frightened of upsetting the Aboriginals, because the Aboriginal vote here in Western Australia is a very powerful vote.

Many Aboriginals will not care and they would happily fall into line to advance their lives and their families’ lives, but as long as we keep throwing money at them, they just will not care, and we will see more of the same misery from many of these people because they have to live this miserable life daily. I want and they want a government that will genuinely help Aboriginal people.

Today, my question without notice was to the Minister for Racing and Gaming and was answered by Hon Alannah MacTiernan, who mentioned the banned drinkers register trial and that I should know about it. I actually do know about it. It will not come into effect for another two months. Unfortunately, it will not make any difference. I hope I am wrong, but it is doomed from the very beginning, because what we are doing is just stopping someone from buying alcohol; we are not taking away the resource that they can buy the alcohol with. All they will do is give the money to their partner, their friend, their mate or even their adult children, and Uncle Jimmy will say, “Go and get me my carton of booze” and they will do that.

We need to stop parking the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. We need to build a fence at the top of the cliff to stop these people falling over. To help that happen, we need to get the ministers and bureaucrats to spend some time in the regional towns. What is happening is they are flying up to Kalgoorlie in the morning, they have lunch at the Rydges Hotel with some of the affluent Aboriginals in town and then they fly back in the afternoon. What they should do is rock up in Kalgoorlie with their toothbrush and their jammies and spend some time in the town—maybe go to the South Boulder camp and have lunch with the local residents. That would give them a true insight into how some of our Aboriginal people are living and that would maybe help them to make a decision to actually help them.