

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS — JACOB ANTHONISZ

435. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions' decision to drop 542 charges against Mr Jacob Anthonisz due to a "significant breakdown of understanding" with police.

- (1) On how many occasions did prosecutors from the DPP meet with, or communicate with, officers from Western Australia Police Force's financial crimes unit in relation to compiling the brief of evidence?
- (2) What was or were the common understanding or understandings in relation to the management of this case that arose from these meetings, and at what organisational level was this information communicated and when?
- (3) What measures will be taken by the DPP in relation to its future dealings with WA police regarding this and other cases to avoid another comprehensively poor outcome?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has provided the following advice.

- (1) From June 2021, the ODPP held regular joint meetings with the Western Australia Police Force, including meeting with it more than 10 times between August 2021 and August 2022. The ODPP routinely provided police investigators with updated schedules of outstanding matters, and sent regular correspondence to WA police, writing on more than 10 occasions between 4 November 2021 and 19 December 2022.
- (2) At the first joint meeting convened by the ODPP, the ODPP prosecution team explained the expectations and requirements for the prosecution case, including the nature of the financial analysis reports needed, and provided to the WA police an outstanding matters requisition schedule, listing requisitions and time lines for disclosure. This was again explained by the ODPP at a joint meeting on 3 August 2021, and regularly articulated at meetings and in correspondence.
- (3) A review of all current complex financial crime prosecutions, including corruption prosecutions, involving similar evidentiary issues is being undertaken. The ODPP is also reviewing relevant practices and procedures. The ODPP will work closely with WA police as part of that process.