

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION,
SELECT COMMITTEE

973. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's indication yesterday that the Government intends to oppose the Opposition's motion for a select committee inquiry into the handling of allegations of fraud within the Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the bullying of a whistleblower because the scope of the inquiry was not broad enough and did not include the period of the previous Government.

- (1) Given the amendment moved by the member for Hillarys to broaden the scope of the proposed inquiry to include the conduct of any minister or Premier within any financial period, will the Government now agree to the select committee inquiry in the interests of open and accountable government?
- (2) If not, why not?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (1)-(2) The current Minister for Health has exposed very well to the people of Western Australia what happened under the current administration. Quite properly he has used the debate about this matter both within and outside this Parliament to expose the member for Darling Range. We are quite happy to use the existing parliamentary procedures and the public debate to make our point. We stand on our record and our contribution to that debate.

Let me go through the issue and I will repeat it to the House. The question of the alleged illegalities in the expenditure of public money has been referred to the police by the current Government. Funding to WAACCHO has been cut off by the current Government because we feel there is no value for money for Western Australia. As I have said all along, the human resource issues are very much the province of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, and she has indicated that she will take them into account when she next reports to the Parliament of Western Australia. The matter is being dealt with and has been debated in the Parliament and in public forums. As far as we are concerned, the circle of accountability is being properly met.