

PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWER, MS JEAN THORNTON

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

I ask a supplementary question. Will the Premier admit that he has betrayed Ms Thornton's trust as a whistleblower by bringing her letter to the Premier's office and then to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Health, and then by tabling it in the Parliament, all without asking for her permission?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

When people come to the Government they expect a full and comprehensive response to the issues they raise. Some of the new members on the back bench may remember this. Let us go back in time and recall what happened when elderly citizens in Western Australia approached the then Government about the mortgage broking industry. Did they get a full and comprehensive response to the question they raised? No. It was swept under the carpet and we had the scandal of the finance broking industry in Western Australia in which many people lost their savings. That was under the former Government. This person wrote a letter to me, and my officers dealt with it, and I have insisted that the response be thorough and comprehensive. That is what people deserve, and that is what we will make sure they get.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Nedlands to order for the second time.