

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR — CARNARVON

**450. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to a letter addressed to the Premier from the president of the Shire of Carnarvon, Eddie Smith, in which he describes the community he loves as a war zone. I also refer the minister to his claim in question time on 21 June “that there is not a series of reports of children wandering the streets and reports of truancy on a daily basis and that there is not a crime wave” in Carnarvon.

- (1) Does the minister stand by this assertion?
- (2) How does the minister respond to the shire president’s suggestion that the lack of accountability for the crime problem has left his community absolutely broken?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for her question. I love Eddie; I think he is wonderful. He is a great representative of the people of Carnarvon. But one thing I would say is that he has never been to a war zone, if that is what he is claiming. That is the answer I give to that particular statement.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Leader of the Opposition, you have had the opportunity to ask your question. I would also counsel other people who are interjecting to let the minister answer.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am trying to give the member an answer. It is an observation that I make quite reasonably. I saw Eddie with his CEO in my office on 5 May. He came to see me. I guarantee the member one thing he said to me with respect to any issues in Carnarvon; that is, the police are doing a wonderful job and there is no concern. I am the police minister. The Leader of the Opposition just asked me a question about my portfolio, and I am assuming that is something to do with policing in Carnarvon. I have no doubt that Eddie would not mind me conveying this part of the conversation we had because his observation was that the police are doing a wonderful job. I am the police minister.

With respect to issues around juvenile crime, I stand by what I said before. Obviously, people are concerned. There is a by-election on. A lot of people are running around, as has been the case for a couple of years now, unfortunately because of the prior member for that particular area, in many cases, as I said on a number of occasions last year, almost encouraging vigilantism, encouraging racist behaviour, and encouraging the community to split and be divisive in their behaviour. That is what happened last year under the previous member. I urge you not to go down that path; take the opportunity for a fresh start in the absence of the former member, who was pretty disgraceful at times last year with regard to this community. Think about what you say and think about the impact on people in the community when you encourage this sort of divisive language.