

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY, ANSWERING PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTIONS

963. Mrs Edwardes to the Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs; Science; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

I refer the Premier to the *WA Business News* article of 23 August, 2001, entitled 'Accountability needed, not more posturing' and ask will he instruct his Ministers to answer Parliamentary Questions in line with his election promises to the public of Western Australia on openness and accountability and refer Minister's to the 1992 WA Inc Royal Commission Report?

Dr GALLOP replied:

The Labor Government, in line with its election promises, is committed to delivering government that is open, accountable and representative. Numerous examples of this commitment are evident as the Labor Government has implemented since February, or is currently implementing, key recommendations of the WA Inc Royal Commission and the Commission on Government that the previous Government did not have the desire or the courage to implement. Examples include:

- The appointment of an independent Cabinet Secretary;
- The implementation of a Ministerial Code of Conduct;
- Improvements to the monitoring and reporting processes for travel using public funds; and
- The introduction of one vote, one value legislation.

The Commission on Government considered that question time affords members of the non-government parties the opportunity to question ministers in relation to public affairs for which they are administratively responsible. The Government will continue to provide complete and honest answers to Parliamentary Questions asked for this purpose and, if the information is available, the Member will be provided with it. However, the Government is not prepared to divert significant resources from important public services to answer questions that are no more than fishing expeditions.