

OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL HEALTH, GENERAL MANAGER

155. Hon C L Edwardes to the Minister for Public Sector Management

I refer the Minister to the case of Mr Shane Houston former General Manager of the Office of Aboriginal Health, in the context of Section 80 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 and ask -

- (a) have procedures against Mr Houston for a serious breach of discipline pursuant to the discipline provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 commenced;
- (b) if not, why not;
- (c) if so when did the proceedings commence;
- (d) who was appointed by the employing authority to investigate the breach of discipline;
- (e) has a report by the investigator been prepared;
- (f) if so, will the Minister table the report;
- (g) if not, why not;
- (h) what are the findings of the investigator; and
- (i) what action is the employing authority preparing to take against Mr Houston for this serious breach of discipline?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c)-(i) I have been advised by the Commissioner of Health that a Departmental inquiry into the conduct of staff of the Office of Aboriginal Health in relation to a contract with the Fremantle Football Club has commenced. To assure objectivity, the inquiry is utilising the services of an independent investigator. This inquiry shall be used to determine whether or not disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 81 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (the Act) are to be commenced.

No finding has been reached. Similarly, no penalty can be contemplated until a finding has been reached and the relevant staff provided with an appropriate opportunity to respond to that finding, consistent with the requirements of the Act.

Consistent with the principles of natural justice, and the sustainability of the process, no further comment can be made until the process has been concluded.