Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 17 June 2021] p1722c-1723a Ms Mia Davies; Mr Paul Papalia

G2G PASS — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

248. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. The minister mentioned earlier that it was a voluntary process. My recollection is that during the period the internal borders were up, that was not voluntary. People had to provide information so they could get across borders, particularly from a regional perspective, so they were required to do that. Can the minister clarify that?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is a serious question. I do not need intake from everyone else; I am asking the minister a genuine question.

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That is right; I am asking the minister!

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I understand what the Leader of the Opposition is saying.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, please do not interject.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is voluntary in that people had the choice: they either completed the G2G PASS to come to WA or they did not come. So there was a choice. I did it myself. It is still applicable right now; it is not just because the borders were closed. If people want to come to WA right now from any other jurisdiction, they have to apply for a G2G PASS. I went to the Land Forces expo in Brisbane, and before I came back I had to apply for a G2G PASS. All those terms and conditions are clear to any individual who is applying.

Did the Leader of the Opposition want to ask me something through an interjection?

Ms M.J. Davies: I understand the state borders, but we had internal borders at one point in time when data was collected. That is my question. That was not voluntary; you had to have a G2G PASS.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am sorry. I concede in that regard; I did not contemplate that. It has been some time and I was talking about the state and international borders. I would not be able to say for sure what the nature of that relationship is, although the G2G PASS obligations and notifications required of people would be unchanged. The obligations are publicly available, and everyone who makes an application is able to read the conditions under which they are applying and they are required to comply with those obligations. It is not a secret that the G2G PASS is accessible by the police, because the police run it. Unlike the SafeWA app, people apply to the police for a G2G PASS. I know it might be fun for people who might be trying to create angst or some sort of concern out in the community to conflate the two. I am not saying that the Leader of the Opposition is doing that, but there are some commentators who would do that. The reality is that the SafeWA database is completely different. We did state that it was for a purpose. The G2G PASS has been operated by the police all along. Everyone knows that when they apply for a pass they are applying to the police, and that they have to do it if they want to come into WA.