

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — PREMIER'S MEETING

**732. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Why was it good enough to establish the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform to suit Labor's political agenda, but not good enough to address dysfunction and chaos in communities, families and the youth justice system with an independent inquiry that would allow everyone to have their say?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

That is a very strange analogy that the Leader of the Opposition has drawn. She seems to be opposed to the concept of democracy in Western Australia, whereas we support the concept of democracy. The idea that people should have equal votes is, I think, a good thing. The United States created the concept of the gerrymander, whereby some people's votes are worth more than other people's votes, because some people voted Republican; it might have even been the Democrats, actually. In the southern states of the US, they made sure that some people's votes were worth more than others. That is anathema to democracy, so we have fixed that to make sure that this state is democratic. This state has democracy.

We are convening a meeting tomorrow and we will listen to what the various participants have to say. If there are good ideas, we will listen to them and see what is practical and achievable.