

QUARANTINE ADVISORY PANEL — QUARANTINE FACILITIES

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

I have a supplementary question. The Premier did not answer the question that I asked, which is: has the Quarantine Advisory Panel met since its formation last Thursday; and, if so, when and how many times?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I do not know the answer to that question; I am not the relevant minister. Obviously, within government, we do a whole range of things and work on this issue. I will outline to the house a couple of quick things. Australia and Western Australia have had one of the best records in the world in dealing with COVID. Our hotel quarantine system, whilst imperfect, has done a pretty good job. The problem is that when something happens, the consequences can be quite severe, as we saw with the Adelaide outbreak that then spread into Victoria, and look what is going on in Victoria. Australia does not have a tolerance policy for COVID in the community. We want to get rid of it, and I agree with that. When it spreads around, as it has done in other countries, it is devastating, so we want to get rid of it. The consequences of an outbreak from hotel quarantine is devastating. Although the system has worked 99.99 per cent of the time, the times that it has not worked have had dramatic outcomes.

Everyone wants us to look at alternatives. We are looking at alternatives, particularly alternatives that might last beyond the pandemic and there might be an ongoing benefit for a community out of it. I have heard the Leader of the Opposition on many occasions demanding accommodation out there in regional communities for workers and the like. We proposed a solution that might have that ongoing benefit and the opposition says they do not want it. You are just a bunch of nimbys!