

FORMER MINISTER FOR HEALTH, ALLEGATIONS BY MS JEAN THORNTON

**907. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Minister for Tourism; Small Business; Sport and Recreation; Peel and the South West:**

I refer the minister to Labor's accountability policy, which states -

Public servants who 'blow the whistle' on corruption, maladministration and waste within government and the public sector will be protected - not persecuted - under a Gallop Labor Government.

- (1) Does the minister recognise, in principle, his obligation as a minister to behave in accordance with this policy?
- (2) As a minister of the Crown, does the minister concede that his manner towards and statements to whistleblower Jean Thornton at the meeting of 17 October could be perceived by Ms Thornton and other whistleblowers as intimidating?
- (3) Will the minister in his new portfolios attempt to desist from engaging in behaviour and making statements that could be perceived as bullying, intimidating and threatening when public servants or others are trying to give him helpful information?

The SPEAKER: As the minister is now the Minister for Tourism; Small Business; Sport and Recreation; and Peel and the South West, he can answer the question in that capacity and not under his previous role as Minister for Health.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:**

- (1)-(3) I am well aware of the issues with regard to accountability and I am also well aware of the confines of this State's Public Sector Management Act.

As the Minister for Tourism, I also point out that today is Perth's birthday. Perth was founded on this day in 1829.