

PUBLIC SECTOR — GOVERNMENT WAGES POLICY

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

I have a supplementary question. I understand from the Premier's answer that the government's wages policy stands. Given the CPSU-CSA wrote to members last week saying that the new offer absolutely breaks the wages policy, who is telling the truth—the Premier or the union?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

As I said to the Leader of the Nationals WA, the \$1 000 wages policy stands. It is fair on everyone across the public sector, whether they are a specialist doctor in a hospital, who might earn many hundreds of thousands of dollars, or a cleaner in the hospital, who might earn \$50 000. It is a \$1 000 wages policy; that is fair on everybody. Considering the financial situation—the \$40 billion debt we were left with by the Liberals and Nationals—it was one of the measures —

**Ms M.J. Davies:** So the unions are lying, then?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is what you did. Just own up to it.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Nationals WA!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** You took it from under \$5 billion and you grew it to \$40 billion. That is what you did.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Nationals WA, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The \$1 000 wages policy will continue, but there may be other benefits that we can provide. As I outlined earlier, domestic violence leave, improvements in payouts to family members when a worker is killed in the line of duty, and increasing permanency are all benefits we can provide to the workforce. I think that is great. I want to do things like that, but, unfortunately, we cannot do everything that people might like. Some of the initiatives on offer in what we put to the CPSU-CSA are worthwhile things that will improve the lives of and work-life balance for people who work in the public sector, but the \$1 000 wages policy will continue.