

When there are disagreements over matters like that, of course some heat is generated in the discussion. The second thing that the people of Western Australia understand is that a federal election campaign is being run. In the context of a federal election campaign, when there are disagreements in the industrial sphere, people obviously want to maximise their position to try to have a victory.

It is interesting to look at our health system. When the Labor Party came to government, there were differences between the Government of Western Australia and the nurses. Step by step, point by point, we overcame those differences, and we have a settlement with the nurses. There were also differences with those workers employed in hospitals who are members of the Hospital Salaried Officers Association. Step by step, point by point, it appears that we have now resolved those differences. That is exactly what we want to do with the doctors. However, if we are to solve the problems in the health system in Western Australia, there must be a resolution of the relationship between the doctors and the Government that puts patients first. All the people of Western Australia understand the heat generated by an election campaign. They also understand that the AMA is a trade union and that it will try to use all the tactics in the book to try to influence the Government of Western Australia to do what is not in the public interest.

Mr Barron-Sullivan: Is that what unions do?

Dr GALLOP: They do. When they do that, strong government is needed. That is what Western Australia has. The people of Western Australia want a Government committed to patients first, and to strength in the face of unreasonable demands.

#### NGAANYATJARRA LAND COUNCIL, MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

#### 440. Mr BOWLER to the Minister for Education:

I was interested to hear of the memorandum of agreement that the minister signed with the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council yesterday. The Ngaanyatjarra lands are above my electorate. They are some of the most remote areas in the State, and the challenges are obvious in delivering appropriate and relevant education services to those areas. Will the minister please inform the House about this agreement?

#### Mr CARPENTER replied:

I thank the member for that question. I do not know whether I have had the chance to tell the House what a great member is the member for Eyre. However, I will leave that to another time. I do not want to set up a comparison with the rabble and rubble - Barney's rubble - left on the other side of the House, this detritus of a political party. They are the great divide-and-rule merchants. They are Barney's rubble.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CARPENTER: I would like to address the question, Mr Speaker. I cannot get a word in. They will not listen. Yesterday afternoon, I had the pleasure of being involved in the signing of an important agreement with the Ngaanyatjarra people for an educational facility and resource in their area. I gave a short ministerial statement. However, I take this opportunity to compare the success that this side of the House is having in its relationship with the Aboriginal people of this State with the lack of success and the disgraceful approach of the previous Government. Who could ever forget that the other side of politics took every opportunity to kick the most disadvantaged people in Western Australia for political purposes? It kicked and kicked. Now it must watch a Government do business in the right way.

Last week, the Government signed a historic agreement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission for a partnership approach to Aboriginal affairs in Western Australia. It was a magnificent day for the people of Western Australia, and one of which all Aboriginal people should be proud. It is something for which they have worked for a long time. Yesterday's agreement was another landmark. This Government has had success on the native title issue beyond any dreams - or should I say fears - that the Liberal Party could have ever imagined. We have already signed the Tjurabalan agreement and are about to sign the Kiwirrkurra agreement. I compliment the Deputy Premier on the fantastic way in which he has approached this issue. The Government has taken a positive approach.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARPENTER: Listen to them! Let the Aboriginal people of Western Australia listen to this rubble - Barney's rubble.

The SPEAKER: Members, the trend has been for ever-increasing noise. The simple fact is that interjections are disorderly. Certain amounts of leeway are given to the Leader of the Opposition and the person asking a question. However, it is becoming increasingly obvious that some members think it is their right to interject at all times. That is not the case.

Mr CARPENTER: I will bring my answer to a close. Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of being party to the handover of freehold title to the Noonkanbah people. Let us remember the history of Noonkanbah. It was a remarkable privilege to be part of that handover process. This Government has set about establishing a positive partnership

relationship with the Aboriginal people of Western Australia. In every field of government activity, the Government is taking a positive approach. It is showing to all people in Western Australia what can be done with goodwill. The Aboriginal people of Western Australia have a remarkable amount of goodwill towards this Government. It is remarkable when one considers the history and the approach of the previous Government. As a reporter, I remember the previous Premier holding up a map of the metropolitan area of Perth, trying to scare the bejesus out of people whose homes he said were about to be snatched by Aboriginal people. That was a disgraceful episode, but it is over. We are at the beginning of a new era in our relationship with Aboriginal people, and I am privileged to be part of it.

#### HOSPITALS, AMBULANCE BYPASSES

##### **441. Mr BOARD to the Premier:**

I refer the Premier to his campaign launch speech dated 4 February 2001, in which he said that when ambulances are forced to drive the streets of Perth to find an emergency ward that can accept patients, that is a crisis. Given that for the seven months to September this year, the time during which the three major teaching hospitals have been on bypass has increased by more than 1 000 per cent - 10 times - will the Premier now admit that under this Government, the public health system is indeed in crisis?

##### **Dr GALLOP replied:**

In opposition and now in government, I have said very clearly that there is a solution to the problems in our health system but it will take some time. First, we inherited a system in an absolute mess. Like the budget of Western Australia, the administration of the health system was in a total mess. The first thing that the Minister for Health did was to set up a review of the administrative structure. We are in the process of establishing reforms. Secondly, a major crisis occurred with our nurses. We have settled that, and are committed to increasing the number of nurses in the system. Thirdly, the system in Western Australia that was set up in the late 1980s and early 1990s shifted some of the focus of health onto the prevention side of the equation. All those gains made in the late 1980s and early 1990s were lost under the coalition Government.

At the next sitting of Parliament, like that member of the Opposition, I will come into this Chamber with a big copy of *The West Australian* from early 1993. It will show the state of our health system when Labor left office. It will state that Western Australia's health system was the best in Australia. That was the situation when the Opposition took over the Government of Western Australia. Step by step, bit by bit, it dismantled the system. Senior administrators left the system. There was no coherent approach to health prevention measures.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the first time.

Dr GALLOP: Minute by minute, hour by hour, month by month, year by year, we will restore the Western Australian health system.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the second time.

Dr GALLOP: We will restore the health system to where it should be. It will take time. I say this to those people who work in the health system, be they doctors or nurses: if they place unreasonable demands on the Government, our Government will stand up for the public interest. The Opposition is bereft of ideas. When did the Opposition have an idea on health? It had none in all its time in government. All the thinking that has gone into the restoration in Western Australia has come from the Labor Party. We now have a health minister with the strength, capacity and knowledge to carry that out. I find it pathetic that the Opposition comes in here campaigning on behalf of one interest group. Do members know who the Government of Western Australia campaigns on behalf of? It campaigns on behalf of the public of Western Australia.

#### HOSPITALS, AMBULANCE BYPASSES

##### **442. Mr BOARD to the Premier:**

The Premier did not answer the question. How does he explain a 10-fold increase in ambulance bypasses?

##### **Dr GALLOP replied:**

Restoring our health system to where it deserves to be will take time. Unlike the Opposition, we have patience. We will make sure that step by step we restore the system to where it should be. One of the problems in Western Australian politics at the moment is that we have a realistic view of politics and members on the other side do not. We understand