

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 6 August 2019]

p4967c-4968a

Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mark McGowan

BENNETT BROOK DISABILITY JUSTICE CENTRE — SUPREME COURT INJUNCTION

557. Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. I would have expected the Premier of the state to know whether or not he was.

Point of Order

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The question is a supplementary question, not a preamble.

The SPEAKER: Get to the point, please, member.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Is the Premier in favour of free speech and a free media that fearlessly reports the truth or will he again in the future use the Supreme Court, at taxpayers' expense, to kill off embarrassing stories for his government?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

These are not matters that I have had any involvement in. Often injunctions are taken out by all governments against the publication of certain matters. For instance, there are rules around the publication of matters to do with sexual assaults and the like, because we do not want to identify victims in those matters. Courts put these rules in place all the time. I thought that, as someone who professes to have a law degree, the member might understand that there are suppression orders on details of certain matters all the time.

In relation to the freedom of the press, of course I support the freedom of the press. What a bizarre question. Members of the press are up there in the press gallery. They look pretty free to me. Look at them. They are sitting there, engrossed by what is going on in this chamber today! They love it. They love question time. They especially love the questions from government MPs. They are very fond of the dorothy dixers we do. We provide a lot of material for the press and we appreciate its freedom.