

MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S INTERESTS — FEMALE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE WORKERS

631. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Women's Interests:

I have a supplementary question. By what date can we expect the proportion of women in senior executive positions to be returned to the levels this government inherited from the Barnett government and what will the minister do to stop the exodus of women —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Speaker, can I repeat my supplementary?

The SPEAKER: You can.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: By what date can we expect the proportion of women in senior executive positions to be returned to the levels this government inherited from the Barnett government and what will the minister do to stop the exodus of women who are apparently resigning from the senior executive service of the public sector?

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Police!

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I was finding it very difficult to hear the question because the Minister for Police kept interjecting.

The SPEAKER: I just told the police minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I am not sure what members of the opposition claim. First of all, they said that we sacked those women in the SES; now they are saying that they resigned. I am not quite sure what their opinion is about why those women left. We value women throughout the public sector. We value women in the senior executive service. The Labor Party values women in all areas of government, including in this chamber. Members only have to look at this side of the chamber—in fact, they have to look three-quarters of the way across the chamber—to see how much we value women. Fifteen women represent Labor seats on this side, two represent the Liberal Party and one represents the National Party. It is shameful. So we will not be lectured by your side about how we promote women!

The SPEAKER: Minister, through the Chair, please.

Ms S.F. McGURK: We do not just talk about it; we actually promote women in our government and throughout our community.