

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

695. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Community Services:

I have a supplementary question. I note that the minister did not answer the question, but my supplementary question is: given that the minister's strongly expressed view on public sector redundancies is that they will lead to poorer public services while not actually saving any money —

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: They are her words.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Did the minister's principles go out the window once elected, or did she argue —

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Her words.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: People on my right, I will get the member to ask the question again because I could not hear any of it.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Given the minister's view on public sector redundancies, did her principles go out the window once elected or did she argue against this revenue-raising measure in cabinet?

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Transport!

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

As has been pointed out, those people on the other side of the chamber made a decision just recently and continue to make a decision that they would rather see redundancies—ordinary householders in Western Australia pay the price rather than the gold sector pay their share of budget repair.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: I gave the Leader of the National Party another chance because I could not hear her. Now I cannot hear the answer.

Ms S.F. McGURK: We understand that the only way as a government we will continue to provide good quality public services, support the community sector and support the community itself is if we have a strong budget position. That is what we are determined to have. We have been very upfront about our commitments and we will work through the process to make sure we honour the commitments that we have made and honour the processes outlined in the budget at the same time as not affecting frontline services, as I said, on which vulnerable families rely.